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DEATHS.

At the Government Civil Hospital, on the 11th February, 1897, JACOB ALEXANDER BEDFORD SMUSTER, the youngest son of the late J. F. SMUSTER, of Hongkong, aged 21 years. [420]

At Shanghai, on the 5th February, 1897, ERNEST STRONGMAN, late 3rd engineer of the steamer *Yuen-wo*, aged 24 years.

At the General Hospital, Shanghai, on the 11th February, 1897, ALVIZIO FRANCISCO DE SA, aged 55 years.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The German mail of the 11th January arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Preussen*, on the 12th February (32 days); and the American mail of the 17th January arrived, per O. & O. steamer *Coptic*, on the 13th February (27 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The Foochow Spring Race Meeting is to be held on the 17th and 18th March.

The British barque *Mark Curry* was destroyed by fire in Iloilo harbour on the 5th February.

H. E. Senhor Horta e Costa has resigned his appointment as Governor of Macao and leaves for Lisbon by to-day's mail.

The Hongkong Sanitary Board has proposed an alteration in the quarantine regulations with a view of establishing medical inspection of vessels arriving from ports infected with smallpox.

The leading merchants of Canton held a meeting on the 12th January to consider the inconvenience resulting from the new postal law. It was resolved to petition the Viceroy and the Governor asking them to take other steps which would offer more facilities to the people in connection with postal matters. Some influential Sansas also went in person to see their Excellencies to ask for a modification of the law.

The Hanoi Chamber of Commerce continues to urge the suppression or reduction of the transit dues charged in Tonkin on goods passing through the country to or from Laokay.

The Shanghai-Woosung Railway will undoubtedly be an accomplished fact, and that very soon, as railway construction goes. Tenders are already called for certain plant, and as soon as the surveying now in progress is completed, the formation of the road bed will be commenced early in April next. Tenders will call for rails and sleepers, and next for rolling stock. The gauge is to be 1.435 metre.—*Mercury*.

The French squadron in the Far East is, says the *Avenir du Tonkin*, to undergo a change. The *Descartes* and the *Pascal*, cruisers of the first class, the *Eclairer*, a cruiser of the third class, and the new gunboat *Surprise* will arrive in a few weeks. The *Descartes* is already on her way, having left Brest on the 11th January. The *Descartes* and the *Pascal* will replace the *Alger*, which is about leaving for France, and the *Isly*, which will follow her in a month or two.

The following is an extract from the minutes of a meeting of the Hanoi Chamber of Commerce held on the 18th January:—The Government having requested the opinion of the Chamber as to whether it would be advisable to apply to Tonkin in its integrity the new treaty of commerce between France and Japan signed at Paris on the 4th August last the Chamber is of opinion that at present there is no reason for the application of the treaty to Tonkin. Later, when the colony shall have attained its full development and when it need no longer fear foreign competition, the new treaty may be applied.

The annual meeting of the Shanghai Branch of the China Association was held at the Shanghai Club on the 8th February. Mr. R. M. Campbell presided, and, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, he made a long and able speech, dealing with the matters mentioned in the report. The report and accounts having been approved, the following gentlemen were unanimously elected as the Committee for the ensuing year:—Messrs. Dudgeon, Skottowe, Probst, Hewitt, Alford, A. Wright, C. Dowdall, J. L. Scott, and Bland. A special vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. R. M. Campbell (Chairman) and Mr. Talbot (Hon. Secretary) upon their retirement from the positions they had filled so successfully.

Herr Von Hartmann, the German Minister to Siam, was driving at Bangkok on the 30th January, when his horse bolted and ran over a Chinaman. The police arrested the Minister and dragged him from his trap to the station, in ignorance of his rank. There the Minister remained in custody for half an hour. An Inspector then asked him for his name, upon which the Minister handed over his card and walked out of the station. The Siamese Government, on hearing of the incident, at once apologised, and dismissed three of the offending policemen. Other policemen were reprimanded and fined. Reparation was to be continued on the 31st January by members of the German Legation proceeding to the police station to receive military honours from a company of Siamese soldiers. The Chinaman who was run over has died.

It will be remembered that about two years ago M. Lyaudet and his wife and child were abducted at Kebao by Chinese pirates and kept in captivity for six months. It is stated by the Tonkin papers that the settlement of the affair with China is almost completed, and that the indemnity to be paid to M. Lyaudet has been fixed in principle at Tls. 50,000.

The *China Gazette* publishes the following telegraphic despatch dated Hankow, 6th February:—The Hankow-Peking (Lu-che-keo) Railway Board have taken over the administration of the Tientsin-Peking-Shanhaikwan railway from the 1st inst., under powers granted in an Imperial Decree. By this means Director Sheng obtains complete control over all Chinese railways at present in existence, and those about to be constructed in the northern half of China, and is placed in such a position that he will be able to raise the necessary capital for the construction of the line from Peking to Hankow, by giving in part security the northern railway system.—Sheng was to leave Soochow on the 5th for Shanghai, and it is believed that having got things into such a favourable shape he will be able to set to work upon the trunk line without much further loss of time.

A terrible accident, we learn from the *Foochow Echo*, happened on the 23rd January to a boat crossing the Haitang Straits from Haikao. She had 108 passengers on board, and when not far from the Haitang shore sank from being overloaded. One hundred and four persons were drowned, among whom were three children, a son and daughters of the chief pastor of the American Methodist churches in Haitang. The son, a young man of great promise, was a student at the Anglo-Chinese College, and was going home for the holidays; the daughters were returning from the Taimain Girls' school, where they had been pupils for some time. Among the lost were twenty-eight young men of Haitang who were returning home from the district examinations at Hokchiang. They were the brightest of the candidates whom the island was to send to the next prefectural examinations at Foochow.

The *Avenir du Tonkin* has an article on Dr. Yersin, in which the allegation that he was received with marked coldness by the medical staff of Hongkong on his last visit here is once more repeated. But it is useless, says our contemporary, to return to this subject, for Dr. Yersin must feel amply avenged for the disdain with which he was then treated by his English colleagues by the eagerness with which his presence and assistance is now sought by the Government of Bombay. The request for his services was, it seems, made through the French Government, which sent a telegram to him through the French Consul at Colombo to intercept him there, the doctor being at the time on his way back to Tonkin from France. As he could do nothing without a supply of serum, it was decided that he should continue his journey to obtain a supply at his laboratory at Nhatrang, Annam. Before leaving for Europe he had inoculated a large number of horses and he had calculated his period of absence so that the serum should be ready a few days after his return. Having collected it he was to proceed to India by the earliest opportunity, and it was expected that he would arrive at Bombay about the 18th February.

HONGKONG AND THE POSTAL
SUBSIDY.

The demand made by the home Government for an increase in the contribution of this colony to the cost of the mail subsidy is no new thing, the same question having been very exhaustively debated in 1883 and 1884. The claim for a contribution from the colony was first advanced in 1879, the amount then asked being £13,771, and after departmental correspondence had gone on for some time the subject came forward for public discussion in the years above mentioned. The result was communicated to the Legislative Council in a financial minute in which the Governor (Sir GEORGE F. BOWEN) recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$63,000 "in payment of the contribution due from Hongkong to lessen the loss sustained by the Imperial Treasury on the Eastern mail service from the 1st of February, 1883, to the 31st December, 1884, at the rate of £6,000 per annum." His Excellency in his minute said that from the papers on this subject which had already been presented the Council was aware that since 1879 this question had been under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, successive Secretaries of State had done their utmost to obtain the assent of the Imperial Treasury to a reduction of the sum originally put forward as this colony's share of the loss, the final decision of the Imperial Government had now been communicated, and Lord DERBY's words were quoted as follows:—"The Lords of the Treasury have finally consented to an arrangement by which the Government of Hongkong shall contribute at the proposed rate of £6,000 from the 1st February, 1883, only, the claim for the arrears of this increased payment for the period anterior to that date being waived." The claim for the full loss has now again been advanced, and the amount, according to report, has risen from £13,771 to £16,000. Presumably the larger sum has been arrived at on the same principle as the smaller sum of eighteen years ago, namely, that this colony should bear the whole of the loss on the section of the mail service between Singapore and Hongkong.

When the subject was under discussion on the former occasion it was referred to the Chamber of Commerce, and the Committee of that body passed the following resolutions:—

- 1st.—That the surplus revenue derived from the Post Office in Hongkong, notwithstanding that the rates of postage are higher than those charged by the French Post Office in Shanghai, on correspondence by Messageries' boats, being only \$8,000 annually, it is manifestly impossible for the Post Office to bear the increased burthen which the proposed impost would throw upon it.
- 2nd.—That the question is being agitated among the mercantile community as to the policy of subsidising any special line or lines of steamers between this colony and Europe, considering the numerous means of direct and speedy steam communication now available.
- 3rd.—That in the event of any further payment being required from the colony towards the cost of the subsidy the means could only be obtained either by an increase of the rates of postage or from some other branch of the revenue such as stamps, which would enhance the taxation on trade, already too onerous, and the Chamber protests in the strongest manner against the proposed measure, and still more against any retrospective payment on account of the mails.

As to the second of the above resolutions, the Chamber was not long in arriving at a definite opinion adverse to the agitation referred to, for when in the following year its opinion as to the policy of continuing the mail subsidy was solicited the Committee replied

that they were "of opinion that the general advantages derived by the public from the present system of subsidising a mail service have been very great and have fully justified the cost at which the mails have been carried with such singular regularity and freedom from casualty." There can be little doubt, we think, that the reply of the Chamber would be the same to-day if the question were repeated and that the discontinuance of the mail subsidy would only be recommended in the event of the cost proving prohibitive.

The question therefore presents itself whether the colony can afford the contribution now asked by the Imperial Government, or whether there are any grounds on which a reduction may be urged. On the former occasion £6,000 per annum was accepted instead of the £13,700 claimed, and although we may not be successful in altogether escaping an increase now there may still be some possibility of keeping the amount within moderate limits. In England the Post Office yields a substantial revenue, whereas in Hongkong it barely covers expenses, and the payment of £16,000, a year would, we believe, cause the establishment to show a dead loss amounting to some five or six per cent. of the total revenue of the colony from all sources. It is an unheard of thing that any State should carry on its postal service at such a cost as that, and it may fairly be urged upon the home Government that the subsidised mail service exists more in the interests of Great Britain's enormous commerce in the Far East than in the local interests of this colony, that the Imperial Government should therefore bear the bulk of the cost, and that the amount demanded from Hongkong should not be so large as to leave the colony working its Post Office at a dead loss. It is needless to dwell on the importance of a great commercial nation maintaining adequate postal facilities with its ordinary dependencies or on the impolicy of bleeding those dependencies to such an extent as to retard their natural development.

THE QUARANTINE REGULATIONS
AND SMALLPOX.

The question of quarantine, which has been so often and so fully debated in this colony, and which so vitally affects the commercial interests of the port, has once more been raised, owing to the introduction of a few cases of smallpox. That persons suffering from such a disease should be allowed to land from steamers and move about freely on shore is a regrettable circumstance, but, as the Colonial Surgeon remarked at Thursday's meeting of the Sanitary Board, smallpox is endemic every winter everywhere in China and all over India; he might have added Japan also. To adopt any rigid system of quarantine would therefore mean largely restricting our intercourse with the neighbouring countries and our chief commercial dependencies. Dr. CLARKE, the Medical Officer of Health, proposes, as we understand, that steamers arriving from places where smallpox is known to exist should be subjected to medical inspection, but for our own part we fail to see what advantage is to be derived from subjecting European vessels to the detention and consequent loss which medical inspection entails while on the other hand Chinese craft, which are more likely to introduce the disease, are to be exempted. The Medical Officer of Health says he would not include Canton among the infected ports, and junks arriving from Canton would therefore be free from inspection. It is true that small-

pox is not this season so prevalent in that city as to excite special attention, but the disease no doubt exists there and the danger of its introduction to the colony from that source is quite as great as the danger of its introduction from more distant parts with which steamers form the sole means of communication. It is very easy for the Health Department to make a great display of energy in connection with the detention of steamers, but if no useful purpose is to be served thereby the mercantile community is justified in objecting to being made to pay for the display.

The existing quarantine regulations were framed principally—we might almost say solely—with reference to cholera, a disease whose period of incubation is very much smaller than that of smallpox and one which possibly may be more effectually guarded against. The regulations provide that every vessel arriving in the waters of the colony after a voyage of less than three days from any infected port, or having any infectious or contagious disease on board, or having on board passengers less than three days from an infected port, shall fly the quarantine flag and remain in quarantine until released by the Health Officer. The Sanitary Board now proposes to delete the limit of time from the above. The first suggestion was to make it fifteen days, thus subjecting to medical inspection all vessels arriving from infected ports after a voyage of less than that period, but finally the mention of the duration of the voyage was struck out altogether, so that no matter how long a voyage may have occupied the vessel would be liable to inspection on arrival.

Medical inspection is a very different thing from quarantine and much less objectionable, since it only delays the ship and those on board for the time necessary to make the inspection and, in case of disease being discovered, for disinfection, excepting of course the diseased persons, who are isolated. The operation, however, necessarily takes time and in a large port like this the aggregate loss would be considerable, reckoning it simply according to current rates for demurrage. The question is whether the danger arising from the possible introduction of smallpox, a disease of which we almost invariably have a few cases every year arising in the colony itself, is sufficient to justify the measure. The Colonial Surgeon says rather forcibly, "there is no earthly reason why a person in this colony should get smallpox so long as there is any vaccine, so it is nonsense to talk about it." If that be so, why inflict a daily loss on shipping arriving in the colony? If, however, it be decided to adopt the course recommended by the Sanitary Board it will certainly be necessary to largely augment the medical staff, for looking at the matter from a purely arithmetical point of view it would be cheaper for the colony to pay \$6,000 a year to medical officers than to inflict a direct loss on shipping of a vastly larger sum, not to speak of the indirect loss resulting from general injury to trade and the avoidance of the port by vessels that can possibly arrange their voyage without calling here. In any case the time seems to have arrived when the Medical Officer of the Port should be required to devote his whole time to the duties of his office, being compensated of course for the loss of private practice. The responsibilities of the office have become too great to be taken merely as a detail in the ordinary routine of a general practitioner.

CHINA AND THIBET.

If our Shanghai morning contemporary is correctly informed, Thibet is shortly to lose its semi-independence. Up to the present time this great northern tributary of the Chinese Empire has been practically self-governing, with a Chinese Resident to watch over Imperial interests. The Resident has always been either a Manchu or Mongolian of rank, who has troubled himself little about the internal administration, simply contenting himself with looking after the external relations of the country of the Dalai Lama. It is now proposed to alter this in a great measure by appointing a Governor, Treasurer, Judge, Taotais, and other officials, who will take in hand the administration of local affairs and convert the State into a province of China, just as was done by the provinces of Manchuria and more recently in Chinese Turkestan, since the retrocession of Kuldja by Russia. Thibet has an army on paper of some 60,000 men, and some of these doughty warriors—who, it will be remembered, advanced into Sikkim a few years ago to repel the supposed British advance, and had to be taught a lesson—may perhaps rebel against the proposed arrangement. There would, however, be little chance of successful resistance by the lamas (for the soldiers are merely fighting priests) since they are wholly without discipline, and what is even worse, are armed with obsolete weapons, which would be useless against the rifles furnished to Chinese Imperial troops, which if not always supplied with proper cartridges are at least modern weapons. Moreover, the Thibetans will doubtless be told, what is said to be the fact, that the change of Government is necessary to protect the country against British aggression. If this were true, it would be a ridiculous reason, about equivalent to the action of the ostrich in thrusting his head into the sand to hide himself from the hunter, and could not avert the anticipated disaster. But, as a matter of fact, Great Britain does not desire more territory, and has already declined to assume some new and apparently profitable responsibilities. She is not likely therefore to covet the bleak highlands and plateaux of Thibet, which would certainly not pay the cost of administration, merely for the sake of widening the boundaries of her Indian Empire. The Indian Government are naturally anxious to promote trade with Thibet as with other surrounding countries, but they have never contemplated the idea of bringing this remote country into the list of their tributaries. On the contrary, they have even continued to permit the yearly tribute bearing missions to proceed from Nepal to Peking, although that country is regarded as a vassal state to the British Raj. Presumably, the attempts made by British explorers from time to time to reach Lhasa, and open up this last of the Hermit Kingdoms to trade and civilization, have induced the most erroneous belief that its possession is coveted by Great Britain. The Peking Ministers are apparently too suspicious to credit us with anything but selfish considerations, and disclaimers are lost on persons who always think the worst.

A European employe at the Tourane coal mines, named Carpentier, committed suicide the other day by exploding a dynamite cartridge in his mouth. Needless to say death was instantaneous, and there were not many remains to inter. Carpentier had shown signs of mental derangement.

MR. LOWDER ON FEMALE VIRTUE IN THE FOREIGN COMMUNITIES OF THE FAR EAST.

Mr. LOWDER, in his speech in defence of Mrs. CAREW, uttered an atrocious libel on the female sex in general, and especially upon the ladies of the foreign communities of the Far East. Having imputed levity to the whole sex he went on to say that "if Mrs. CAREW allowed herself to give to Mr. DICKINSON a greater degree of encouragement than was strictly prudent she did no more than hundreds of women have done before her; are doing at this very day, and continuing to do from day to day; and will do and continue to do, in spite of what moralists may preach to the contrary. But are they to be thought capable, on that account, of the atrocity charged against the prisoner? If so, it is a fortunate thing that the number of husbands living in the East who are in the habit of dosing themselves with arsenic, or other poisons, is comparatively small." The implication is that large numbers of European ladies in the Far East are disloyal to their husbands and engaged in dishonourable intrigues with other men. This very gratuitous aspersion is wholly unwarranted by anything in the general tone of local society. As Mr. WILKINSON put it in his reply, "while the standard of propriety among us foreigners in the East differs in no degree from that to which we have been trained in our youth at home we have become accustomed to so much greater freedom of social intercourse here that much that would suggest impropriety at home passes here without bringing any such suggestion." Even this seems to us to go too far, for we fail to see even a suggestion of sexual impropriety in the usual forms of social intercourse in the Far East. Every community naturally develops social customs of its own, but variety in that respect does not necessarily imply a variation in the standard of morality, or, in so far as it may do so, we would contend that the standard is the highest in those communities where the greatest liberty is allowed to women. No doubt a certain amount of what Mr. LOWDER terms sexual obliquity is to be found in all societies and in all ranks and stations, but the ladies of the foreign communities of the Far East are certainly not as a class characterised by any special obliqueness. In uttering such a libel it seems to us that Mr. LOWDER exceeded even the latitude that may be properly claimed by counsel pleading for the life of his client.

THE CHINESE POSTAL SERVICE.

It does not seem likely from present appearances that Sir ROBERT HART will earn for himself the reputation of a Chinese ROWLAND HILL by his institution of an Imperial Postal Service. Instead of giving increased facilities at reduced rates the effect of the new system is in the contrary direction, the new service being more unsatisfactory than that formerly supplied by the private postal agencies while the rates charged are higher. Its chief purpose, indeed, seems to be that of raising revenue. The system is in its infancy as yet and what it may develop into remains to be seen, but it would have been more encouraging if it had commenced with reform instead of retrogression. In the Hongkong Legislative Council some years ago the late Hon. A. LISTER, then Postmaster General, made the following remarks:—"The Chinese can collect their letters more to their liking, forward them

more to their liking, and deliver them a great deal quicker than the Post Office can, and under these circumstances it would be monstrous for the Government to claim a monopoly to do things for people that they can do much better themselves." But that is exactly what the Chinese Government is now doing, and the Hongkong Government is assisting in the work and hopes, if report speaks truly, to share in the plunder, its anticipations running as high even as a hundred thousand dollars per annum. The question whether the Post Office should be made a source of revenue may be debatable, but if a revenue be derived it is at least to be expected that an efficient service should be provided. But under the Chinese postal scheme the service is worse than it was and rates have been increased.

LIGHT DUES.

In connection with the subject of light dues, now being agitated, the fact may be recalled that at a meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 5th March, 1884, the Hon. F. B. JOHNSON moved that "In the opinion of this Council the light dues levied on shipping in any one year should not exceed in amount the estimated expenses of maintaining the lighthouses during the year." The following amendment was moved on behalf of the Government, namely, "That this matter be referred to the Finance Committee in order that the whole of the correspondence may be considered and looked into carefully. This amendment was accepted by Mr. JOHNSON and carried *nem. con.* If the Finance Committee ever reported on the subject the production of the report at the present juncture would be useful. We have ourselves been unable to trace any such report, however, and are of opinion that the matter was pigeon-holed and lost sight of, but a search of the Government archives would set this point at rest. The present Colonial Secretary was at that time Acting Clerk of Councils and may have some recollection of the subject.

THE PHILIPPINE REBELLION.

Senor Navarro, the Spanish Consul, courteously informs us that he has received the following telegram:—

Manila, 14th February.

His Excellency the Governor-General of the Philippines leaves to-day to personally assume command, as General-in-Chief, of the military operations in the province of Cavite.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held at the offices on the 11th inst. Hon. F. A. Cooper (Director of Public Works) presided, and there were also present Hon. F. H. May (Captain Superintendent of Police), Dr. Ayres (Colonial Surgeon), Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. N. J. Ede, and Mr. H. McCallum (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

PLAGUE AT BOMBAY.

A statement from Bombay showed that from the 6th to the 19th January 1,058 cases of bubonic plague had occurred in Bombay city, resulting in 807 deaths.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The mortality statistics showed a death rate of 16 per 1,000 per annum for the week ended 6th inst., against 17.6 for the previous week and as compared with 31.10 for the corresponding week of last year.

QUARANTINE AT CALCUTTA.

A communication was received from the Government of Bengal forwarding a copy of a notification issued by that Government imposing quarantine rules in the port of Calcutta against vessels arriving from Karachi.

SMALLPOX AND QUARANTINE REGULATIONS. IMPORTANT DISCUSSION.

In connection with the outbreak of smallpox amongst the Circus company the following letter was read:

Sanitary Board Offices,
Hongkong, 3rd February, 1897.

Sir,—I have the honour to report for the information of the Board that four cases of smallpox have occurred among the employees of Willison's Circus, who arrived from Haiphong by the steamer *Hongkong* on the 1st inst. From the history of the cases I am of the opinion that the infection was contracted at Saigon. The cases were all removed to hospital yesterday and the hotel at which they were staying has been temporarily placed out of bounds by the naval and military authorities pending its thorough disinfection. I consulted the Acting President of the Board yesterday as to what action it was necessary to take in regard to the public performances at the circus and we agreed that the immediate vaccination of all the employees and a daily medical inspection of them would be a sufficient protection of the public health. This was agreed to by the manager and will be at once carried out. I have the honour to be, &c.,

FRANCIS W. CLARK,
Medical Officer of Health.

There was also a letter from Mr. Willison stating that he had made arrangements for the whole of the company to be vaccinated and for a report as to the health of the company to be made daily by Dr. Rennie. In connection with this letter Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health) suggested that Dr. Rennie's report be forwarded daily to the Board.

The following minutes were appended:—

Mr. Ede—How comes it that four sick people were allowed to land and go to a hotel when suffering from smallpox? Who is responsible for this?

The Captain Superintendent of Police—I arranged with Mr. Willison to send the report of Dr. Rennie to Dr. Clark. Perhaps Dr. Clark can ascertain whether any of the patients were suffering from smallpox when they arrived. Two certainly were not.

The Medical Officer of Health—In reply to the President's minute the steamer *Hongkong* arrived from Hoihow (about 48 hours' journey) at 9 a.m. on Monday, February 1st. The passengers went ashore at once and were not medically examined; the vessel does not carry a surgeon. The two children were taken to Dr. Rennie that same morning and had suspicious rashes which could not be pronounced definitely to be smallpox until Dr. Hartigan saw them in the evening. Dr. Hartigan also saw, at the same time, the two men and pronounced them to be suffering from smallpox. Both these men declared they had been ill for about four days and that the rash had come out on Sunday, January 31st, i.e., about 24 hours before their arrival in this port. I saw one of these men (Albert Home) early on the morning of the 2nd inst. and should certainly say that he must have had the rash out for 48 hours. The other man had been removed to hospital before my visit to the hotel. The captain of the vessel is evidently the person at fault for not complying with section 2 (b) of the quarantine regulations. Section 2 (a) does not apply to this case, as the ports of Hoihow and Haiphong have not been declared to be infected, nor is there any evidence that any infectious or contagious disease "prevails there," as I understand the vessel brought a clean bill of health from those ports. Personally I consider that passengers should not be allowed to land from any vessel which does not carry a surgeon until they have been inspected by the port medical officer, but unfortunately there is no regulation to that effect and consequently occurrences of this nature are liable to be repeated at not infrequent intervals.

The Captain Superintendent of Police upon this wrote the following additional minute:—The captain of course pleads ignorance of the men being in a state of suffering from smallpox. I agree with the Medical Officer of Health's last paragraph and will move a resolution at next meeting to recommend Government to adopt the suggestion.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—Dr. Clark and I discussed this question to-day and Dr. Clark has a suggestion which will meet the object I am trying to get at by a resolution amending the quarantine regulations.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—I think, sir, that some slight alterations in the quarantine regulations, page 72 of the book, will obviate the occurrence of passengers being landed whilst suffering from an infectious disease. At the present time, although section B, sub-section 9, states that any vessel arriving here with an infectious case on board must be reported, yet, in fact, that only occurs when a surgeon is carried. The captain of the ship invariably pleads, and he can plead I believe, that he was not aware that he had a case of infectious disease on board; therefore, even if the captain is prosecuted the probability is that he will be acquitted, because it is impossible to say that he knew that the case was infectious and that therefore he did not proceed to the quarantine ground and he allowed his passengers to land. The suggestion I have to make is first of all that the regulations be slightly altered and that certain ports should at the present time be declared as infected with smallpox. There is no question that the ports in Japan are infected with smallpox and also certain of the coast ports. A similar occurrence—the landing of infected passengers—took place in regard to cholera; those passengers ought not to have been allowed to land, and so in the same way there were four cases of smallpox—two were suspicious cases—which were also allowed to land when the vessel arrived here, I would suggest that sub-section A, section 2, be altered so as to read that vessels not carrying a surgeon be inspected on arrival at this port. I would exempt vessels carrying a surgeon from medical inspection, as I think we may safely rely upon the fact that where a surgeon is carried and a case of infectious disease exists he will comply with sub-section B and report the case to the Health Officer of the port. The only difficulty is in regard to the shipping interest, as all ships arriving from Japan without a surgeon will have to go to the quarantine anchorage until the Health Officer has had time to see everything on board. There may be half a dozen arrivals in an hour and the last may not be seen by the Health Officer until five or six hours after arrival, and all vessels arriving late at night will have to wait till the morning, and steamers so arriving may not be cleared until noon on the following day; so that there is the shipping interest to think of and also the question of whether the Government can provide a second Health Officer temporarily while we are surrounded, as we undoubtedly are surrounded at the present time, by ports infected with smallpox. The reason why I suggest the alteration from three days to fifteen is that the incubation period will be covered. I also suggest that plague be added to the list of infectious and contagious diseases mentioned in the regulations. Those vessels coming from Bombay which have a surgeon on board would not be required to go into quarantine. I do not say that this alteration would have the effect of protecting us from smallpox except so far as it would protect us from the importation of cases; it would not protect us of course from people coming here and developing the disease afterwards. This is the system that is carried out at home and it was found to work excellently in my own personal experience in regard to cholera during the Hamburg epidemic, and it is certainly the English, if not the European, system of quarantine.

The PRESIDENT—Vessels include junks.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—I would not suggest that Canton be included among the infected ports, and there are not a large number of junks coming from Shanghai or Saigon.

The PRESIDENT—As you read it, section 2 would read "where the disease prevails."

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—The port must be declared by the Governor in Council to be infected. The meaning of that term is that the port must be proclaimed by the Governor in Council, so we have control over it in that way. If the Governor does not de-

clare a port infected that means that this inspection will not take place. The Governor has control over the amount of work to be done in that way.

The COLONIAL SURGEON—We have already applied for one outside surgeon.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—That is a matter for the Government to consider. Whether they can get a man I do not know. There is no question that the matter is urgent.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—If you make every vessel not carrying a surgeon on board go into quarantine on arrival, then there is nothing to compel a vessel that has a case on board and carrying a surgeon to go into the quarantine anchorage at all.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—But Section 2 B applies then.

Mr. Ede—The question, to my mind, is, how long are these ships going to be detained here? We have plenty of ships coming into the harbour and they may be more than an hour in quarantine unless you have enough officers to inspect them. This rule should not be put into force unless there is a sufficient medical staff to perform the work within a reasonable time.

The COLONIAL SURGEON—Yes, it is a very serious thing.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—Can you say how many steamers arrive from Japan every day?

The COLONIAL SURGEON—Sometimes there are as many as ten or twelve.

Mr. Ede—At present we are practically surrounded by smallpox—Calcutta, the Straits—I believe there are some cases at Singapore—Hoihow, and Japan. These ports altogether mean a great many arrivals here.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—Are there twenty steamers arriving each day?

Mr. Ede—On some days probably.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—Would twenty be the average number?

Mr. Ede—I do not say it would be the average. I think on some days there would be quite that number. On Monday the morning paper contains an immense list. I should say you will find that on some days twenty steamers come in.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—Half of them have doctors.

Mr. Ede—I do not think any steamers carry doctors unless they are liners, such as the *Empress* boats and the mail steamers.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—Is there not a law that if they carry over twenty-five passengers they must have a doctor?

The COLONIAL SURGEON—I do not think Chinese passengers are included.

Mr. Ede—I quite agree this would be a good thing to do providing you have a sufficient staff to carry out the work within reasonable time after arrival. I do not think you ought to detain a ship which is in good health.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—My suggestion is that it shall be only a temporary measure. First of all we must get consent to make the alteration in the regulations. After that we will not put them into force until we have a sufficient staff. The thing is to have the alterations made even if we are not able to put them into force directly they are made.

The PRESIDENT—From a theoretical point of view I think we all agree with the Medical Officer of Health. It is only a question whether, in view of past experience and in view of the staff available at present and the staff usually available in this colony to put into force the alteration suggested by the Medical Officer, we can from a practical point of view now recommend his Excellency the Governor in Council to make the alterations referred to. The question of quarantine and the question of the vessels has, I believe, received considerable attention by the Governor in past years and I think that a resolution somewhat as follows would meet the views of the Board as a whole. I therefore propose the following resolution—"That in the opinion of the Board it is desirable that regulations be practicable with due regard to vessels not being unnecessarily detained, be made under Section 25 of Ordinance 26 of 1891, requiring all vessels coming from an infected port not carrying a surgeon to proceed into the quarantine anchorage and not to land any person until inspected by

the Health Officer of the port." "I mean that if the recommendation is agreed to it should be forwarded for the information of His Excellency the Governor, and if His Excellency is of opinion that the adoption of the recommendation is practicable the amendment of the regulations will have to be made by the Governor in Council and it is a matter for the Government to consider what further steps, if any, are necessary to enforce such regulation."

Mr. EDE—Would it be possible at present to convey to the Governor the importance of not putting these regulations into force unless there is a sufficient staff so as not to detain ships unnecessarily? It would be a great loss and a great inconvenience for ships to be detained, especially those which are healthy. I do not think it ought to be done in regard to ships which are in good health. It would take the Health Officer a long time to examine the passengers, and all the ships would have to wait their turn.

The PRESIDENT—Ships carrying passengers ought to have a surgeon. They have the remedy in their own hands.

Mr. EDE—Can you add a word or two in regard to ships not being detained unnecessarily?

The PRESIDENT, in reply to a question by the Medical Officer of Health, said—The Governor in Council certainly can say that a port is infected.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—Hoihow, where these men came from, is infected with smallpox and it has not been declared infected, but if it was declared infected the regulations as they now stand would carry out what I suggest. Hoihow is within three days and if Hoihow had been declared infected the very thing we are asking for would have been done.

The COLONIAL SURGEON—Practically the whole of China is infected.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—Should not the ports be proclaimed if they are infected?

The COLONIAL SURGEON—You never declare a port infected unless a disease is in a serious epidemic form. It is endemic every winter in China—everywhere in China and all over India for the matter of that.

Mr. EDE—You have to get information from the authorities of the port that there is a disease in an epidemic form.

The COLONIAL SURGEON—You have, and we should not declare a port infected because there were even twenty or thirty cases.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—We have had weekly returns of cases in Hyogo and that port has not been declared infected.

The COLONIAL SURGEON—They will declare our port infected; they will say "so many cases a day; it must be infected!"

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—Bombay ought to be declared infected.

The COLONIAL SURGEON—Bombay filters through Colombo. Smallpox is endemic all over the East and if you injure English shipping here there will be a howl. You just see what the shipping members of Council will say.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH suggested as an alternative that only every vessel arriving here without a surgeon should be inspected and said there ought to be a larger staff to do the work.

The COLONIAL SURGEON—You had better take all the junks as well, and you would want a good deal more than the two you are talking about. This is a matter which has been thrashed out several times and I kicked about it myself a long time ago, but the idea has not been practicable. How many patients have there been in the hospital with smallpox? I do not think we were declared infected when we had over 50 or 60 in the hospital and they were coming in every day and dying like smoke and we had mat-sheds in the hospital gardens full of patients. There is no earthly reason why a person in this colony should get smallpox so long as there is any vaccine, so it is nonsense to talk about it.

The PRESIDENT again read his resolution.

Mr. EDE seconded.

The PRESIDENT said he proposed to send the resolution in a letter pointing out the direction in which the Board desired to amend the quarantine regulations and hoping that if approved of by the Governor in Council the

Board would have an opportunity of seeing the proposed alteration before its adoption.

The resolution was then put and carried. All the members, with the exception of the Colonial Surgeon, who voted against it, were in favour of the proposal.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE then proposed that plague be included amongst the infectious or contagious diseases mentioned in the regulations.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH seconded. Carried.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH moved that the period of three days be altered to fifteen days in section 2 sub-section A of the regulations.

The PRESIDENT—It is not much use putting vessels into quarantine unless you are prepared to keep them for a sufficient incubation period. In a case of smallpox a vessel which had been three days between ports would have to go into quarantine for twelve days.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—No.

The COLONIAL SURGEON here interrupted with an inaudible remark and the PRESIDENT then asked—What is the use of putting fifteen days if the vessel can be released in four days?

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—Supposing you proclaimed Hyogo it would have no effect. If you proclaim a place which is over three days' journey it would have no effect at all.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—The regulations to my mind are contradictory at present.

The PRESIDENT—If a vessel comes in here under less than the incubation period what is the use of altering the quarantine regulations for a longer period if you are going to permit persons to land and settle in this colony before the incubation period has expired? It is no safeguard at all.

Mr. EDE—I agree with the President. I do not see the use of making the alteration unless you keep the vessels in quarantine. The Health Officer goes on board a vessel that has been out five or six days and she goes into quarantine. There are, say, twenty persons with the germs of the disease in them and unless he keeps them for the remainder of the incubation period he cannot tell them what to do.

The COLONIAL SURGEON—He has the power to say "I suggest this vessel be kept in quarantine for another ten days," and then there will be Glory Hallelujah.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—Who says that?

The COLONIAL SURGEON—The Medical Officer.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—He has not power.

The COLONIAL SURGEON—But suppose you put it in the regulations he will have the power and there will be a dispute. Supposing there are two or three vessels and no cases on board—Oh Lord! In England if there is no case on board the vessel is released at once. They would not stand it for a month in an English port. If you are going to do that you will ruin this port.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—If you are going to do what?

The COLONIAL SURGEON—If you are going to give the Medical Officer undisputed authority to detain a ship.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—Those passengers who are free from sickness are always allowed to land at once; the Health officer has no power to detain them. Whatever time it has taken a ship to come it ought to be boarded.

The COLONIAL SURGEON—It is utter nonsense to declare a port infected when you can protect yourselves. There is no necessity here for a soul to suffer from smallpox; that's a known fact.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—Smallpox is not the only thing.

The COLONIAL SURGEON—We are talking about smallpox now and that is the most serious thing here to interfere with the shipping. Practically smallpox is all round us.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—You mean that ships ought to be allowed to land cases of smallpox here.

The COLONIAL SURGEON—No. If there are cases of smallpox and you are going to stop

a ship here during the period of incubation—

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—Nobody suggested that, at least I don't.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—In England they go in for medical inspection.

The COLONIAL SURGEON—They do not go in for stopping a vessel.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—They do if there are any cases aboard. I suggest that the resolution be altered to "after a voyage from any port or place," leaving out the number of days. If the Governor in Council proclaims a port infected ships ought to be inspected. That is what occurs to me. At present a ship coming from a port three days off may have an accident, and the four days and the regulation debar anyone from being inspected if more than three days away. It seems to me absurd. Hyogo is more than three days away.

Mr. EDE was in favour of this resolution, considering that the Health Officer was obliged to let everybody go who was not sick.

The PRESIDENT said he had no serious objection to the alteration. He thought, considering what had been said about this section, that the residents in the colony could congratulate themselves upon the fact that although cholera and smallpox had been so prevalent in Japan for the last six or eight months, we had escaped. He believed there was scarcely a case imported from Japan.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—We cannot say that cases came lately in considerable numbers.

The resolution deleting "after a voyage of less than three days" in sub-section A of section 2 of the quarantine regulations was carried. Dr. Ayres voted against it.

It was then resolved to recommend the Governor in Council to declare Bombay infected with plague. Dr. Ayres did not vote on this resolution.

A similar resolution, which was proposed by the Captain Superintendent of Police, seconded by the President, affecting Tung Kun, was lost. The Medical Officer of Health and Mr. Ede voted against it; Dr. Ayres did not vote.

It was also resolved to recommend the Governor in Council to declare Kobe and Hyogo infected with smallpox. Dr. Ayres voted against this resolution.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Board then adjourned.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS DANCE.

It must be a very fine line that could be drawn between a function bearing the superior title of ball and the dance given by the Hongkong Volunteer Corps on Wednesday night (10th Feb.) at the City Hall: the distinction, if there were any, was certainly not perceptible. Every feature associated with a grand ball was in evidence. With the exception of the theatre the whole of the building was utilized for the occasion, and the seven hundred people who were present must all acknowledge that for hearty enjoyment and warmth of hospitality the Volunteer Dance will rank as one of the best dances given in the colony this season. The occasion was a most noted one. It was the first public function given by the Corps since Sir John Carrington assumed command and it emphatically marks an important era in the history of the Corps—the rapid inroad which the Volunteer movement is making in popular favour. And we think there can be little doubt that this happy turn is in a great measure due to the appointment of such a highly esteemed civilian as Sir John Carrington to the post of Commandant, and there is every likelihood, now that the Corps has been so ably wrenched from the troubled waters of apathy, that the future will be conspicuously successful and that the ranks will be materially increased in numbers and efficiency. The whole of the officers and men who were responsible for the arrangements of the ball must be congratulated upon the success of their efforts. They could not have done better. The decorations were of course in the main of a military character and they were very neat indeed. The entrance and staircase were lined with bamboo trees supplied by Mr. H. Humphreys and they were dotted with numerous electric glow lamps which created a very pretty

effect, and seven pounders and Maxims placed on the floor set off the picture to advantage. At the top of the stairs a sand-bag fort, mounted by Maxim guns, was constructed under the superintendence of Battery Quarter-Master Sergeant Coyle and Gunner Thomson. This fort was as picturesque as such things can be and it was rumoured during the evening that at least one foreign military officer was placed under strict espionage for wandering too close within its precincts. The St. George's Hall and the St. Andrew's Hall were used for dancing and they were very tastefully decorated with banners, while at the top end of St. George's Hall was placed the crest of the corps, which was exceedingly well painted on canvas and presented a most striking appearance in front of a powerful electric light. A brightly polished Maxim gun was placed in each corner of the room and bayonets were very neatly arranged round the walls, the whole scene being very pleasing and picturesque. The retiring rooms and the verandahs also received the best treatment at the hands of the Decorating Committee. Shortly before nine o'clock a guard of honour, composed of members of the Field Battery and of the Maxims, was drawn up at the entrance and both lines presented an exceedingly smart appearance, all the men of course being in full dress uniform. The first distinguished guest to arrive was His Excellency Major-General Black and as he entered the guard presented arms. Punctually at nine o'clock His Excellency the Governor came, his arrival being announced by a trumpeter. The guard presented arms in a most soldier-like manner and as His Excellency passed between the two files he was met by Sir John Carrington (Commandant), Captain Gordon (Adjutant), Captain Chapman, and the other officers of the Corps. His Excellency seemed particularly pleased with his reception and after he had passed upstairs the guard was dismissed and dancing at once commenced. When the programme was gone through there were still a very large number of dancers in the room, although it was after midnight, and two extra dances were played. The music was supplied by the band of the West Yorkshire Regiment under Bandmaster W. G. Bentley, A.R.C.M., and gave every satisfaction. Supper was excellently served in the Chamber of Commerce room and the library was used as the bar and card room. The hon. secretary of the Dance Committee was Captain Chapman, and he performed his arduous duties in a most creditable manner, leaving nothing for the most fastidious to complain about.

The following is a list of the stewards:—
H.E. Hon. Col. Sir W. Robinson, K.C.M.G.;
Maj. Sir J. W. Carrington, Kt.; C.M.G.;
Captain L. A. C. Gordon, R.A.; Captain A. Chapman, Lieut. W. Machell, Lieut. D. Macdonald, Lieut. W. K. Wylie, Lieut. A. M. Marshall, Lieut. F. Maitland, Surg.-Lieut. F. O. Stedman, Batty, Sgt.-Maj. G. L. Duncan, Batty, Q.M.S. J. Coyle, Sergt. H. McPhail, Sergt. J. H. W. Armstrong, Sergt. G. C. Fullerton, Corpl. A. Ewing, Corpl. G. P. Lammert, Gunner H. Bridges, Gunner J. A. Jupp, Gunner H. Humphreys, Gunner A. H. Skelton, Gunner E. C. Shepherd.

The dance programme was as follows:—

- 1.—Lancers..... Duke of Fife.
- 2.—Valse..... Santiago.
- 3.—Barn Dance..... Happy Darkies.
- 4.—Valse..... Soldaten lieder.
- 5.—Lancers..... Knight of St. George.
- 6.—Valse..... Marguerite.
- 7.—Polka..... Tout a la Joie.
- 8.—Valse..... Sobre las Olas.
- 9.—Highland Scotch..... Scotia.
- 10.—Valse..... Estudiantina.
- 11.—Barn Dance..... Iola.
- 12.—Valse..... Linger longer Loo.
- 13.—Lancers..... The Old Guard.
- 14.—Valse..... Myosotis.
- 15.—Barn Dance..... Faust up to Date.
- 16.—Valse..... Bid me good bye.
- Gallop..... Jolly Brethren.

At Tientsin a fire took place in a godown and offices occupied by Mr. E. B. Lees, on the 20th January, damage to the extent of Tls. 3,000 being done. It was covered in the Royal and Imperial Insurance Companies.

BURNING OF THE BRITISH BARQUE "MARK CURRY"

MAGNIFICENT SPECTACLE.

There arrived at Hongkong on the 11th Feb. by the steamer *Kweiyang* from Iloilo Captain Mosher and the crew of the British barque *Mark Curry*, which was burnt in Iloilo harbour on the morning of the 5th inst. The barque was a vessel of 1,200 tons and belonged to Windsor, Nova Scotia. She was taking in a cargo of sugar and was about half full. How the fire originated is unknown, but we believe Captain Mosher intends to apply for a court of inquiry to be held. By 1 a.m. the fire had obtained such headway that information was sent to the *Kweiyang*, Captain Outerbridge, which was also lying in the harbour, and assistance applied for. The chief officer at once went off with a boat's crew to render what assistance he could, but found on arrival that the fire had too great a hold for anything to be done towards saving the ship, the whole of the interior being ablaze. It was therefore a case of saving life, and with the *Mark Curry's* own boats, a boat from another sailing ship lying in the harbour, and the boat from the *Kweiyang*, the crew were taken off to the last named vessel. Meantime the fire had been rapidly spreading and the sight is described by those who saw it as one of the most striking they have ever witnessed. It was a clear starlight night with no moon, and as the flames shot upward and enveloped the masts and rigging, causing the vessel to stand out from the surrounding darkness, the effect from a spectacular point of view was magnificent. As the flames did their work the yards fell one after another, each crash stirring up the burning timber, and when the windlass was consumed the mooring chain dropped off and the vessel, still a mass of flame, drifted out of the harbour with the tide and was gradually lost to view. This was at 4.30, or only three and a half hours after the alarm was given.

FIRE AT THE GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

Soon after nine o'clock on Monday morning a telephone message was received at the Central Police Station from Government House stating that the Government Buildings were on fire. On receipt of this rather alarming news the Fire Brigade, under Hon. F. H. May and Mr. Corcoran, turned out in full force and in an almost incredibly short time they were at the scene of the outbreak, while a large staff of police, under Inspector Baker, also promptly turned out. Happily the fire was not in itself serious, but it was quite serious enough, for if it had gained a few moments more headway it is most probable that a considerable part of the Offices would have been destroyed. The fire was caused by the upsetting of a pot of tar which was being boiled on the roof of the verandah near the South-east corner of the building. For some time past considerable repairs have been in progress to the entire roof of the structure and the work had so far been completed that the tiles were being coated with tar, the said tar being boiled in a pot on the top of the roof in close proximity to the workmen. We do not know whether the head officials were ignorant of this highly dangerous procedure or whether they acquiesced in it in order to facilitate the progress of the work by saving the Chinese coolies the trouble of taking the boiling liquid from the ground to the roof, but be that as it may, it is to be hoped the practice will be at once stopped. As soon as the pot overturned the tar caught fire and ran under the tiled roof and instantly set the rafters ablaze. With as much haste as possible two messengers and two coolies got out the fire hose from the despatch box which is always kept in the building and with the assistance of two or three overseers in the Public Works Department they played a plentiful supply of water upon the burning material. Volumes of smoke issued from the roof and attracted the attention of Sergeant Collett, who was on duty at Government House, and he immediately telephoned to the Central Police Station.

Soon after the outbreak Hon. F. H. May, Mr. H. P. Tooker, overseer Coyle and Pearson and Quartermaster Sergeant Walling were on the spot and they all rendered excellent service in preventing the spread of the flames so much so that by the time the Fire Brigade arrived there was practically no serious danger to be apprehended. One man, Inspector Fisher, of the Sanitary Department, had a narrow escape of very bad injuries. He saw liquid falling from the roof and imagining it was water rushed forward in order to save a number of papers which were in the verandah. This liquid was molten lead from the top of the verandah, but fortunately Fisher perceived its real nature just in time. About nine rafters and other woodwork in the roof were charred before the fire was finally extinguished, and it is stated that it will cost \$200 to make good the damage. Immediately under this part of the roof is the Colonial Secretary's correspondence office and owing to the large quantity of wood in the roof and verandahs and the heavy stock of paper in the office this place, at any rate, must have been utterly destroyed if the fire had not been so promptly checked. A large number of business gentlemen, who were at the time proceeding to their offices, witnessed the work of the firemen.

INDIAN FAMINE RELIEF FUND.

The Honorary Treasurer of the Indian Famine Relief Fund begs to acknowledge receipt of the undernoted subscriptions—

Already acknowledged	\$22,945
Holliday, Wise & Co.	500
Bradley & Co.	500
Meyer & Co.	500
H'kong and Whampoa Dock Co.	500
Union Insur. Society of Canton	500
China Traders Insurance Co.	500
Wm. Meyerink & Co.	250
A Friend	250
A. Ross	200
Ho Tung	200
Hongkong Daily Press	200
Lau Wai Chuen	150
H. H. Kirsh & Co.	100
A. H. Rennie	100
Mitsui Bishi Goshi Kwaisha	100
Stolterfoht & Hagen	100
A. P. Marty	100
Sir J. W. Carrington	100
Hartigan, Stedman & Rennie	100
Anton & Stewart	100
A. Coxon	100
D. Jackson	50
Ho Fook	50
Brandao & Co.	50
A. Hancock	50
A. H. Chinoy	50
B. Byramjee	50
C. de Champeaux	25
F. S. Smith	25
Augusto J. de Roxario	25
J. M. E. Machado	25
A. S. G.	25
Dr. Bateson Wright	25
Cash, per Hon. J. H. Stewart	24
Lockhart	20
G. W. F. P.	20
W. Powell & Co.	20
B. Shepherd	20
F. A. Hazeland	20
A. Seth	20
J. W. Norton Kyshe	20
A. Friend	15
F. Mahomed	10
Thos. Meek	10
John Dick	10
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co.	500
Canton Insurance Office	500
J. J. dos Remedios & Co.	100
Jebsen & Co.	100
H. Wicking	100
J. E. Michael	100
N. D. Ollis	100
Willison's Circus	50
Capt. C. V. Lloyd	50
Dr. J. M. Atkinson	50
V. A. Caesar Hawkins	50
J. Hastings	50
J. Y. V. Vernon	50
MacEwen, Frickel & Co.	50

N. J. Saunders	50
J. L. Chuttoo	35
Augustin	25
Erich Georg	25
Noronha & Co.	25
Charles Ford	20
Capt. L. A. C. Gordon, R.A.	10
A. Friend	10
J. M. V. de Figueiredo	10
Frank S. Shaw	10
L. C. R.	10
F. D. Guedes	10
H. J. M. Carvalho	5
D. A. S.	5
J. A. Carvalho	5
Hongkong, Canton, and Macao	
Steamboat Co. Ltd.	250
R. M. Gray	200
P. & O. Co's Staff	115
Burnie and Goddard	50
J. Thurburn	50
Rev. R. F. Cobbold	50
China Fire Insurance Co.	500
Leigh & Orange	100
M. J. D. Stephens	100
C. Inghald	50
C. H. Thompson	25
Paul Jordan	25
Royal Artillery Sergeants' Mess	50
Rag	10

\$32,429

A first remittance of Rs. 50,000 has been wired to Sir Francis Maclean, Chief Justice of Bengal, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Indian Famine Fund, Calcutta.

ANOTHER RUSSIAN FINED FOR TRASPASSING IN THE FORTS.

At the Police Court on the 10th Feb., before Commander W. C. H. Hastings, J. Anoutchin, fourth engineer on the Russian cruiser *Rurik*, was charged with unlawfully trespassing in the field works and fortifications at Kowloon. Mr. V. H. Deacon defended and Captain P. de S. Burney was present on behalf of the military authorities.

On Tuesday afternoon, at 12.30, Corporal Edmonds, who was the non-commissioned officer in charge of the Kowloon Dock Fort, saw the defendant close to the hill near the depression range-finding pedestal and the telephone operating cells, close by which were some pillars, marked "A.1. military reserve." He was within the field works and could easily see the fort. Edmonds sent three members of the Asiatic Artillery to arrest the trespasser, who was taken to Hongham Police Station. He was dressed in full Russian uniform. No suspicious papers were found upon him. Edmonds was asked by Mr. Deacon if there was a notice board on the road by which the defendant reached the spot and Edmonds replied that he was not sure about it.

Mr. Deacon admitted that the defendant was within the fortification and said that about eight o'clock on Monday morning the *Rurik* went into dock and the defendant had a lot of work to do in connection with the engines. On Tuesday, he finished his duties about eleven o'clock in the morning. He then had his luncheon and at 12.30 went for a walk, having nothing particular to do. He naturally went up the hill and technically the defendant had been guilty of a breach of the Ordinance. He (counsel) was perfectly aware that ignorance did not excuse, but the defendant was wholly ignorant of the regulations that were in force concerning this particular part of the colony, as to which there had already been a good deal of trouble. He did not know there was any regulation prohibiting him from going there and he did not see any notice board on the road which he took. When he got to the top of the hill he thought he would like to have a look at the ship as she lay in dock and he walked to a place from where he could see her, and here he was arrested. He had a pocket book in his possession, but the fact that there was nothing but figures in it showed his bona fides. Moreover, he was in uniform, another fact which bore out the defence that he did not go there for any improper purpose. If he had

been there for an improper purpose, was it conceivable that he would go in the uniform of a Russian officer? Counsel concluded as follows—And now I would suggest that more care be taken or a notice board put up to warn people that the place is a fort. This is the third or fourth time we have had trouble with the Russians and I have no doubt we shall have more trouble. There was one case at Stonecutters' and this is the second or third here and there will always be trouble unless there is a guard over the east and west entrances.

His Worship—The papers are taking all that down. If this was a local Ordinance, such as the Opium Ordinance, there might be some ground for ignorance; but we are not the only people who guard our fortifications, and defendant belongs to a nation which is particularly careful about its fortifications. We have it in evidence that he was in a place from where he could overlook the forts, and I cannot help thinking that when he was overlooking the forts he must have known he was in a place where he ought not to have been. I shall impose a fine of \$300.

THE OBSERVATORY REPORT.

Dr. Dobereck's Observatory Report for 1896 is published in the *Gazette*.

The result of an analysis of Mr. Figg's weather forecasts for 1896 is given as follows:—Success 67 per cent., partial success 30 per cent., partial failure 2 per cent., total failure 1 per cent.

The amount of success attached to the firing of the typhoon gun to indicate local gales has been determined according to the method adopted at meteorological offices at home. According to this method of counting, the storm-signal is justified if followed by a gale of force 8 and upwards within 48 hours at a place near sea-level within 50 miles on the place where the signal is hoisted. It is a failure because "too late," if it blows a strong gale (force 9) before the signal is hoisted. According to this way of counting, a failure has to be recorded every time the gun is not fired during the winter for a "Norther," although the Observatory does not presume to forecast those, as that cannot be done till information is available from the interior and northern ports, e.g., from Hankow and Chefoo, from which ports no telegrams have as yet reached the Observatory.

The typhoon gun has been fired 27 times one round, since the Observatory was started on the 1st January, 1884, i.e., during the past 13 years. During the same period it has 30 times blown a gale of force 8 and upwards: once in February (norther), once in June (typhoon), 5 times in July (typhoons), 3 times in August (typhoons), 11 times in September (typhoons), 7 times in October (typhoons), and twice in December (northers).

A table is given showing all the gales that have passed over the colony during the past 13 years and the warnings given by the typhoon gun. This shows 75 per cent. of success counting all the gales and all the times the gun was fired, or 83 per cent. of success if the "Norther" be left out of the account. This, Dr. Dobereck says, compares favourably with the percentage of success in the British Isles. 58 per cent. only of which are justified by subsequent gales of force 8 and upwards (mean of the 10 years 1884-93 inclusive). This leaves out of account the fact that in those isolated instances where the gun was not fired warning was given by notices issued and, of late years, by lanterns hoisted. During the first eight years it was fired when the wind blew 37 miles per hour, on an average, while during the past four years it was fired when the wind blew only 27 miles per hour on an average. This shows an improvement with the increase of staff that took place in the meantime, and with the increase in the number of telegraphic reporting stations.

The net profit made by Langfeldt & Co. Limited, Yokohama, in the past half-year was \$32,580, and it is proposed to pay a dividend of 20 per cent.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION

The ordinary half yearly meeting of the shareholders in the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation was held at the City Hall on Saturday, 13th Feb. at noon Mr. A. McShane presided and there were also present Hon. J. J. Bell Irving, Messrs. C. Benmann, M. D. Ezekiel, R. M. Gray, R. H. Richardson, D. R. Sassoon, N. A. Siebs (Directors), T. Jackson (Chief Manager), Hon. C. P. Chater, Hon. E. R. Belilios, V. A. C. Hawkins, A. Coxon, C. S. Sharp, J. H. Lewis, C. A. Tomes, W. H. Ray, G. Stewart, F. Henderson, P. A. Barlow, Hart Buck, C. Palmer, F. Dodwell, G. C. Cor, G. H. Potts, G. Murray Bain, R. C. Wilcox, F. Maitland, C. F. Gonsalves, E. S. Wheeler, P. Sachse, P. Jordan, J. R. Michael, E. Georg, W. Ramsey, A. Coutts, W. H. Gaskell, S. S. Benjamin, H. M. H. Nemajee, S. B. Bhabha, J. A. Chinoy, W. Lysaught, F. N. Firth, M. H. Michael, D. D. Gudzar, H. M. Mehta, S. Hancock, Captain Goddard, and Lan Wei Chuen.

The CHIEF MANAGER read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN read the annual report, after which he said—Gentlemen, the Directors are glad to meet you again with a very favourable report for the last half-year. We propose to pay what has now become the usual dividend of £1 5s. per share, and place five lacs of dollars to the reserve fund. At the last meeting I advised you that we had sold £188,000 of our holdings of Consols, the profit on which, say £25,582 16s. 3d. is included in the accounts now submitted. Our holdings of Consols remain at £500,000 standing at £95. Our other investments both in sterling and rupees stand in our books at very favourable rates. I am glad to say that we have a large portion of the profit upon the loans we recently participated in still unappropriated; same will go to enrich future profit and loss accounts, and will help us to maintain a steady dividend of £1 5s. per share in bad times as well as in good ones—that is the goal we are aiming at, and we are confident of realizing it. (Applause.) Margins and profits of every kind are not what they formerly were in Eastern banking. We cannot see that the future will bring us any relief in this respect. It is therefore sound policy to husband our resources, and in building up our reserve as we are doing we are accomplishing two desirable ends, firstly improving (if that be possible) the credit of the Bank, and secondly rendering it all the easier in future half-years to place before you satisfactory reports. (Applause.) In my speech at the last meeting I alluded to the large amount of sterling that was then deposited with us in London in current account belonging to the Chinese Government. Our London current accounts then aggregated £6,315,097. A considerable amount of said funds has since been withdrawn, reducing the sterling current accounts to £3,886,564 on the 31st December. A corresponding reduction has taken place in our cash balance, say \$25,765,782 on the 31st December as against \$52,409,687 on the 30th June, 1896. Our fixed deposits in gold are less by £144,000 than they were six months ago, being £2,626,307 against £2,770,788. Bills receivable on the 31st December aggregated \$80,217,513 as against \$71,727,698 the previous half-year. The dearthness of money to Europe during the half-year brought a good deal of business to the Eastern banks, and our funds were fully and profitably employed during most of the time. So much for the past. As for the future we look forward hopefully, and although there are more banks in the field than there formerly were, there is no doubt that the volume of the Eastern trade is steadily increasing, and the tendency is to go on in the same direction. (Applause.) The deplorable famine in India and outbreak of plague there are interfering very much with business in that great dependency, let us hope that the efforts now so freely and so generously being made will be crowned with success, and that the dark clouds will soon pass by. (Applause.) In conclusion, we hope that the year entered upon will be equal to those of our predecessors, and while we are fortunate enough to have our management conducted with

zeal and ability which so signally characterise our Chief Manager and his staff we may look forward with every confidence to the future. (Applause.) Before moving the adoption of the report and passing of the accounts, I shall be glad to answer any questions shareholders may wish to put.

No questions having been asked, the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and passing of the accounts.

Mr. E. S. WHEELER—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I have great pleasure in seconding the proposal. You have expressed the pleasure it gives the Directors to meet us with such a report; it is even more pleasant for us as shareholders to receive so good an account and to agree to your proposal as to the division of the profit, and this especially so as you tell us that the account does not include a large portion of the profit on the loans recently issued by the Bank, which will augment future profits, and thus assist in the maintenance of a steady dividend. It is especially satisfactory to hear of your confidence of attaining a position which will enable the dividend to be maintained alike in bad years and in good; nothing will do more to maintain the Bank in its present proud position, and nothing is more likely to result in the gradual and permanent enlargement of the dividend. You have referred to the increased competition in the Bank's business; that is a complaint we are all suffering from, but we may look forward to increased trade compensating for the increased competition. At any rate, I think we may have every confidence that the Hongkong Bank with its numerous and influential supporters, its growing resources, and its able management—both here and at the numerous branches—will in the future as in the past not only hold its own, but enjoy the lion's share of the trade of the Far East and long continue to be the leading bank. (Applause.) With these remarks, gentlemen, I beg to second the adoption of the report and statement of accounts for the past half-year. (Applause.)

Carried.

Mr. RAY proposed the re-election of Mr. N. A. Siebs and Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving on the Board of Directors, and the confirmation of the appointment of Mr. C. Beurmann, in room of Mr. J. Kramer, who resigned on leaving the colony, and of Mr. R. L. Richardson as Directors.

Mr. J. H. LEWIS—I beg to second Mr. Ray's proposition.

Carried.

Mr. P. SACHSE proposed the re-election of Messrs. F. Henderson and C. S. Sharp as auditors.

Mr. G. STEWART seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. I thank you for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be issued on Monday morning.

HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report of the Board of Directors of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Limited, to the ordinary yearly meeting of shareholders, to be held at the offices of the Company, on Monday next:—

To the shareholders of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, Limited.

Gentlemen,—The directors have now to submit to you their report, with a statement of accounts for the half-year ended 31st Dec. last. The total receipts for the six months are \$1,597,777.79, and the net profit, after paying interest due and all charges, amounts to \$443,891.21 to which has to be added the balance brought forward from last account... 156,969.13

\$600,860.34

and from this have to be deducted—
Directors' fees ... \$7,000.00
Auditors' fees ... 500.00

7,500.00

leaving available for appropriation \$593,360.34
The Directors recommend that a dividend for the half-year of 8 per cent. or \$125,000 and a

bonus of 4 per cent. or \$62,500 together equaling \$187,500 be paid to the shareholders, a bonus of \$20,000 to contributing shareholders, a bonus of \$20,500 to the European staff of the Company, that \$43,475.95 be written from the value of Kowloon Docks, \$17,779.68 from Cosmopolitan Docks, that \$200,000 be passed to reserve fund, and the balance \$104,104.71 be carried to new account.

The business of the Company having largely increased during the last few years, it has been found necessary to provide greater facilities at the Kowloon establishment; therefore steps are now being taken to acquire more land to the north-west of our present boundary in order to give the additional space required.

The Slip No. 1 underwent a careful inspection last month, when it was found that all the woodwork under water had been destroyed by the teredo, so that the whole of it must be renewed. The estimated cost of this repair will amount to about \$25,000 and the time to complete the work and have the slip ready for service will be about six months.

During the year a few new machines of a modern type have been added to the saw mill and engineering establishments which enabled us in a measure to overtake the pressure of work on hand.

The docks, workshops, and engineering plant have been maintained in the highest state of efficiency, and are all in excellent working order.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. J. Kramer have left the colony, Mr. C. Beurmann has been invited to the vacant seat on the Board. The appointment requires to be confirmed at this meeting.

In accordance with clause 60 of the articles of association, Messrs. Siebs and Van Buren retire by rotation, but being eligible offer themselves for re-election.

Mr. St. C. Michaelsen has been appointed Chairman for the year 1897.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. Thomas Arnold and Fullerton Henderson, Mr. S. G. Bird having left the colony on leave of absence. The Directors recommend Messrs. T. Arnold and S. G. Bird for re-election.

ST. C. MICHAELSEN, Chairman.

CAPITAL ACCOUNT, JULY TO DECEMBER, 1896.

31st Dec., 1896.	ASSETS.	\$	c.
Aberdeen.			
To value of Aberdeen Docks, as per last statement		100,000.00	
Kowloon.			
To value of Kowloon Docks, as per last statement		\$1,074,602.31	
Less amount since written off		24,602.31	
		1,050,000.00	
Amount paid for extension of Kowloon Marine Lot No. 27		9,639.00	
Amount paid during past six months on account of 16 new houses		43,035.21	
Amount paid repairing typhoon damage to boiler shop		1,560.74	
Value of new machines added during past six months		14,241.00	
		1,118,475.95	

Cosmopolitan Dock.			
To value of Cosmopolitan Dock, as per last statement		275,489.98	
Less amount since written off		25,489.98	
		250,000.00	
Amount paid on account of new sea wall and extension, during past 6 months		8,009.68	
Amount paid on account of new European quarters.		500.00	
Value of new machines added during past 6 months		9,270.00	
		267,779.68	
Tug, Launches, and Lighters.			
To value of "Fame" as per last account		15,000.00	
To value of 12 steam launches, 1 steam lighter, and boats as per last account		31,486.00	
Less amount since written off		1,486.00	
		30,000.00	
To fixed deposit with Hongkong and Shanghai Bank		200,000.00	
To 5 shares China Fire Insurance Company, Limited		169.00	
To Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, cash on current account		36,457.63	
To sundry debtors		117,071.28	
To cost of material on hand		822,025.54	
		\$2,706,979.08	

31st Dec., 1896.	LIABILITIES.	\$	c.
By shareholders for 12,500 shares of \$125 each fully paid up		1,562,500.00	
By reserve fund		400,000.00	
By Admiralty loan £20,000.0.0			
Less repayments		7,217.61	
		£12,782.13.11 @ 2/11	120,807.72

By Admiralty loan exchange adjustment at credit of this account		8,630.87	
By sundry creditors		14,780.15	
By balance of profit brought forward from last account		156,969.13	
By profit		443,891.21	
		600,860.34	
		\$2,706,979.08	

31st Dec., 1896.	REVENUE ACCOUNT.	\$	c.
To cost of labour, material, and working expenses at the Company's three establishments		1,127,508.56	
To fire insurance		1,298.98	
To Crown rent		1,943.55	
To office expenses, salaries, stationery, and rent of head office		19,452.92	
To drawing office expenses and salaries		3,026.50	
To telegrams		476.07	
To legal expenses		180.00	
To profit		443,891.21	
		\$1,597,777.79	

1st July to 31st Dec., 1896.		\$	c.
By gross earnings of the Company's three establishments		1,592,643.02	
By interest		216.60	
By towage net earnings		4,410.42	
By transfer fees		187.00	
By bonus on premia, &c.		320.75	
		\$1,597,777.79	

HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the twenty-eighth ordinary general meeting, to be held at the offices of the General Managers on the 26th February.

The General Managers and consulting committee have pleasure in laying before the shareholders the twenty-eighth annual report of the Company.

1895 Account.—This account, which is now finally closed, shows a profit of \$216,879.93, which sum, with the approval of the consulting committee, it is proposed to deal with as follows:—

Bonus to contributing shareholders,	\$19,191.93
Addition to reserve fund,	21,688.00
Dividend of \$22 per share,	176,000.00
	\$216,879.93

1896 Account.—The balance at credit of this account is \$304,817.76.

Mortgages.—The General Managers and consulting committee are satisfied, from the valuations made by the Company's surveyors in Hongkong and Shanghai, that the properties held by the Company are good for the advances made.

Consulting Committee.—Mr. S. G. Bird having left the colony, Mr. F. Maitland was nominated to the vacant seat, and his appointment requires to be confirmed. The present members, Messrs. Chater, Lewis, Ezekiel, Ross, and Maitland, retire but offer themselves for re-election.

Auditors.—The accounts have been audited by Messrs. Fullerton Henderson and A. Coran, whose re-election is recommended.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.

General Managers.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Limited
Hongkong, 11th February 1897.

BALANCE SHEET, 31st DECEMBER, 1896.			
LIABILITIES.			
Dr.			\$
Capital subscribed		\$2,000,000.00	
Amount paid up		400,000.00	
Reserve fund		1,000,000.00	
Uncollected dividends		2,259.95	
Accounts payable		26,203.82	
Working account, 1896			
Net profit		216,879.93	
Working account, 1896			
Amount brought forward from below		304,817.76	
		\$1,950,161.47	

Cr. ASSETS.		\$ c.
Cash on current account with Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	11,534.27	
Cash in hands of General Managers	508.71	
Fixed deposits:		
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	\$250,000.00	
Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China	50,000.00	
Mercantile Bank of India, Ltd.	50,000.00	
	350,000.00	
Mortgages:		
In Hongkong	\$335,500.00	
In Shanghai	492,897.09	
	1,328,397.09	
Investments:		
Chinese Imperial Government loan, 1898	\$32,374.64	
Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, debentures	60,000.00	
Hongkong High-Level Tramway Company, Limited, debentures	11,500.00	
Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Company, Limited, debentures	62,608.70	
Shanghai Land Investment Company, Ltd., debentures	27,586.20	
200 shares in the Hongkong Land Investment Co., Ltd.	13,000.00	
5 shares in the China Fire Insurance Company, Ltd.	375.00	
	207,444.54	
Steam fire engines	1,500.00	
Accounts receivable	50,776.86	
	\$1,950,161.47	

WORKING ACCOUNT, 1896.		\$ c.
To losses and claims paid	33,217.66	
To return premia and re-insurances	4,847.74	
To remuneration to Consulting Committee and auditors	5,500.00	
To steam fire engines, amount written off	500.00	
To balance as above	216,879.93	
	\$260,945.33	
By balance from last account	\$260,712.64	
By exchange	232.69	
	\$260,945.33	

WORKING ACCOUNT, 1896.		\$ c.
To losses and claims paid	31,588.77	
To charges	22,529.87	
To commissions	28,825.92	
To fire brigade expenses	498.49	
To balance as above	304,817.76	
	\$388,260.81	

		\$ c.
By net premia received, less returns and re-insurance	281,647.78	
By interest	104,556.73	
By exchange	1,918.30	
By transfer fees	138.00	
	\$388,260.81	

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The twenty-eighth ordinary meeting of shareholders in the China Fire Insurance Company, Limited, was held at the Company's office, Queen's Road Central, at noon on Monday. Mr. St. C. Michaelsen presided and there were also present—Messrs. H. L. Dalrymple, A. McConachie, D. R. Sassoon, N. A. Siebs, C. S. Sharp, C. Beermann (Directors), G. L. Tomlin (Acting Secretary), J. B. Coughtrie, G. Sharp, A. M. Roza Periera, P. Jordan, J. A. Carvalho, F. Gove, J. Farrow, G. H. Potts, Chan Pat, Hon. Wei Yuk, S. H. Michael, J. Thurburn, G. C. Cox, J. H. Cox, C. Palmer, H. M. Mehta, and J. R. Michael.

The ACTING SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, the report and statement of accounts having been in your hands for over a fortnight you will no doubt now allow them to be taken as read. It gives us much pleasure to meet you with such satisfactory results for the year 1895, showing that after paying in interim dividend of \$3 per share in February last there remains a profit of \$151,048.64 to be dealt with on this occasion. This is in a great measure due to the loss ratio to premia having fallen from 91.62 per cent. in 1894 to 27.35 per cent. only for the year under review. We now propose to pay a final dividend of \$6 per share, but it is our desire to impress it most strongly on your minds that you must not consider the

Company in a position to distribute annually no less than 45 per cent. on its capital and that it is only being done now in order to place our accounts, as far as dividends are concerned, on a sounder basis. After our experience with the 1894 account we could come to no other conclusion than that it was most decidedly unadvisable to pay interim dividends and we have taken the opportunity as early as possible of altering our system whilst not asking shareholders to accept a smaller dividend than usual in consequence of our action. You must recollect, however, gentlemen, that the only way this measure could be effected was by foregoing any substantial increase to our reserve fund, and therefore you must be prepared at our next distribution of profits to see that account added to materially to make up for the small sum placed to its credit on the present occasion, provided of course that the results will allow us to do so. As business men you will readily follow me when I say that a Fire Office cannot have too large a reserve fund—(hear, hear)—it being the security that our policy holders look to when they come to us, and therefore so long as we continue to pay the handsome dividend of 30 per cent. on our paid up capital your Board are of the unanimous opinion that the rest should be set aside towards strengthening the Company's position, as it goes without saying that the stronger we are the more confidence the insuring public will have in us. For the benefit of those not fully conversant with the business of a Fire Insurance Office and who in consequence may fail to see the objection to interim dividends, I might explain that taking our 1896 account as an example the balance of \$267,164.11 brought forward is subject to diminution through losses until the whole of the policies for that year have run off, and therefore it is impossible to say what our actual profit will be until the 1st January next, and such being the case I think you will all agree with me when I say that it is not a sound or business-like principle to anticipate such profit by paying away in the shape of an interim dividend what has not been completely earned. Turning now, gentlemen, to the working account for the past year we may well congratulate you on the excellent results to date. The balance brought forward beats any previous record by some \$22,000 and we can only hope that it will not suffer to any serious extent by losses between this and the end of the year. You will notice that premium account again shows a steady advance and this time it stands higher than it has ever done before, in addition to which you must not lose sight of the fact that so much of our business is now done on net sums that we shall have less bonus to declare and therefore the gain is still greater than it would appear to be when comparing the figures with those of previous years. The formation of tariffs, as mentioned at our last meeting, has extended during the past year and with one or two exceptions they now exist in all parts in the Far East and work satisfactorily. Our gain in premium, you will be pleased to learn, is not due so much to an increase of business as to better rates, and consequently a marked improvement is shown without much extra liability being incurred. As regards interest account we were a year ago afraid that this would show a further falling off, but you will have been glad to notice that the contrary has been the case, in fact this account has also reached a higher figure than in any past year, and this in spite of the lower rates now ruling. The increase can, however, be partly accounted for by the fact that we have reduced our fixed deposits and added to our mortgages and other securities and partly by the fact of our funds being larger than in 1895; and whilst on this subject it gives me much pleasure to inform you that our surveyors have recently reported on the properties under mortgage to us and we are fully satisfied that there is ample security against our loans. Of the other accounts I need only point out that the increase in commission account necessarily follows the gain in premium. It is, however, satisfactory to note on the other hand that our expenses have not grown larger, but are in fact less than in the preceding year, and in regard to losses account you will observe that we

have been fairly fortunate, and it is pleasing to be able to inform you that up to date the account has only been increased by some \$1,200 from fires which have occurred since end of the year. I think there is scarcely anything more for me to add than that our secretary, whom you all will be glad to see back—(applause)—has just returned from leave and that at the desire of the Board he has visited the large Indian cities to report on the advisability of an expansion of the Company's business in those parts, and this matter will shortly receive our careful attention. Mr. Tomlin, who has been acting as secretary during the absence of Mr. Coughtrie, will go home on leave some time next month for a well earned holiday and it gives me very much pleasure in expressing the Directors' great appreciation of his services, in which I have no doubt shareholders will cordially join—(applause.) Before proposing the adoption of the report and statement of accounts I shall be happy to answer any question relating to them that you may desire to put to me.

There were no questions and the CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and statement of accounts as presented to the meeting.

Mr. G. SHARP—Mr. Chairman and gentleman, in speaking to the resolution which has just been proposed I may be permitted to allude to an incident which occurred on Saturday. In looking amongst some old papers for a currency memorial which I promoted some twenty years ago I turned up a memo of some names of those who were to be called upon to sign it and on turning over the paper I found it was written on the back of an old share quotation list of 1872. In this the price of the China Fire Shares upon \$100 paid up was just half of what it is now upon \$20 paid up, to which they have been subdivided; so that in fact our stock during the last twenty-five years has increased very nearly a thousand per cent., upon which fact we may well congratulate ourselves. (Applause.) This is, indeed, a record report. There are not many here who remember the first start of this Company. A number of people in Hongkong then questioned the wisdom of insurance in the China Fire. They said, "Better give your risks to an outside company that has fewer hazards in the street than to the China Fire, which has so many. In the event of a serious misfortune will they be able to pay up all their losses?" In those days our fires did not consist, as they frequently do now, of putting out, say, a first floor fire at a cost of \$250 to the Insurance Company, but occasionally they used to start at the Clock Tower and leave off at the Sailors' Home. (Laughter.) I notice in the report that you have \$15,000 down for re-insurances. I do not know what the Hongkong Fire amount is for this year, but I see for 1895 they had \$5,000. Their premia receipts being about the same as ours, it appears we are three times more prudent than they. Well now, what are these re-insurances? I take it that they are the annual payment on your part to secure immunity in the case of serious, large, and heavy losses which would interfere with the usual dividend; they are annual payments for an equalization of dividends, a prudential arrangement against exceptional losses, against which the reserve fund, to which our Chairman has so prominently alluded, is also to provide. Without a substantial reserve fund and without re-insurance it would be altogether imprudent to accept heavy risks. As the Chairman said, an insurance office cannot have too large a reserve fund. I think so too. Thus as our reserve increases we need not re-insure so much because we are justified in taking heavier risks. Your loans amount to something like \$800,000. You loan your money and you loan your reserve fund, and, if I understand correctly, you grant fire risks upon the securities which you take. Now, if it were not for the reserve fund it might be questioned whether it were wise to take risks upon securities for loans. But with such a reserve fund you are amply justified, and the larger the fund the greater the justification. Speaking of mortgages, these advances upon carefully selected properties at interest of 50 per cent. beyond that which the Bank deposits give us are excellent, and in the selection of these securities I know very well a great deal of care is taken. You have the

pick of the market. In fact, the information which your Secretary and your Directors have in the matter of property is something exceptional and it increases every year. The losses which have been incurred on the properties which have been taken over have been infinitesimal. They are very small bargains that the public have got out of the sale of your unredeemed pledges. I was fortunate on one occasion myself, but I do not expect another chance. (Laughter.) The Chairman has referred to tariffs and the Association. I am not sure that your Company is in need of such an Association. The local companies can stand alone without the assistance of others. They do not want any concurrence or any aid from outside companies and being deprived, as they are by the Association, of that discretion which they are so amply and exceptionally qualified to use, I think it may be a question whether the Hongkong Fire Insurance Association is to the advantage of the China Fire and the Hongkong Fire, but the Directors know best. There is no doubt that the circumstance with which this Company has been managed for over twenty-eight years is most remarkable. It generally happens that in good times when things are prosperous there is just a little comfortable relaxation of strict business rules and everything goes swimmingly. Further prosperity and that liberty which has been enjoyed degenerate into licence. Risks and ventures are too readily undertaken; misfortune comes, a reaction takes place, and the fat is in the fire. It is not so with this Company. The more they prosper the more prudent they become. (Applause.) Prudence is the one great thing. Prudence is the foundation stone of insurance; prudence provides the material for its superstructure; prudence is its canopy and its protection; prudence is its top stone and its crown. I concur most cordially with the Chairman's views as to making a large appropriation to the reserve fund out of the profits of the last year, when they are in hand. I have very much pleasure, gentlemen, in seconding the adoption of the report and accounts. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN—I have no doubt you have all listened with great interest to Mr. Sharp's remarks, and as he has such good information, is such a large property holder that I hope he will favour the China Fire with many risks. (Applause.)

The resolution was then put and carried.

Mr. PALMER proposed the confirmation of the election of Messrs. Sharp and Beermann as Directors.

Mr. GOVE seconded.

Carried.

Mr. JORDAN proposed the re-election of Messrs. A. McConachie and D. R. as soon as Directors.

Hon. Wai YUK seconded.

Carried.

Mr. THURBURN proposed the re-election of Messrs. W. H. Potts and J. H. Cox as auditors.

Mr. CARVALHO seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. I thank you for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be ready on the 22nd inst.

HUMPHREYS ESTATE AND FINANCE CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report of the Governing Directors for the year ending the 31st December, 1896, for presentation to the shareholders at the eleventh ordinary annual general meeting of the Company, to be held at noon on the 22nd February.

To the shareholders of Humphreys Estate and Finance Co., Limited.

Gentlemen, We beg to lay before you our report and statement of account for the year ending 31st December 1896.

The net profit for that period, including \$2,118.61 carried forward amounts to \$13,299.29, to which we have added a sum of \$5,000 from the equalisation of dividends fund, making the amount available for appropriation \$18,299.29, and propose the payment of a dividend of 7 per cent for the year and to carry forward to the credit and loss account \$519.29.

The result of the year's working shows an improvement upon the previous year, notwithstanding an increase in the expenditure under

the headings of interest and repairs, which latter were unusually heavy owing to damage caused by the severe typhoon on the 29th July last.

All the houses completed last year are occupied. Eight new ones are being erected on your Kowloon estate, and as we have already received many enquiries about them we are confident they will readily let.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. Fullarton Henderson, who offers himself for re-election.

JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON,

Governing Directors.

Hongkong, 10th February, 1897.

BALANCE SHEET 31st DECEMBER, 1896.

LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Fixed loans and cash on deposit	177,465.20		
Sundry creditors	248.66		
Fund for equalisation of dividends	25,000.00		
Capital account	254,000.00		
Profit and loss	18,299.29		
		\$475,013.15	

ASSETS.		\$	c.
Amount invested in property	435,845.09		
Amount invested on mortgage	15,588.50		
Sundry debtors	6,124.96		
Office furniture	1,212.50		
Building material	160.00		
Cash in H'kong & Shanghai Bank	\$16,015.75		
Cash in hand	66.35		
		16,082.10	
		\$475,013.15	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.		\$	c.
Dr.			
To general charges, Crown rent, fire insurance, and auditor's fees	3,219.07		
To repairs	2,087.08		
To interest	9,291.57		
To remuneration to governing directors for management, clerks, and office rent	3,000.00		
To dividend of 7 per cent. on \$254,000.00	17,780.00		
To balance to new account	519.29		
		\$35,897.01	

Cr.		\$	c.
By amount carried forward from 1895	2,718.61		
By rents	20,707.50		
By commission and sales of stock	7,355.40		
By transfer fees	115.50		
By transfer from equalisation of dividends fund	5,000.00		
		\$35,897.01	

EQUALIZATION OF DIVIDENDS FUND.		\$	c.
Dr.			
To transfer to profit and loss account	5,000.00		
To balance	25,000.00		
		\$30,000.00	

Cr.		\$	c.
By amount brought forward	30,000.00		
		\$30,000.00	
By balance		\$25,000	

THE WEST YORKSHIRE REGIMENTAL SPORTS.

The annual athletic meeting of the West Yorkshire Regiment was held at the Happy Valley on the 10th and 11th February, the first day being devoted principally to the preliminary heats. The weather, though cold, was bright and cheerful and the afternoon was most enjoyable. The arrangements, both for competitors and guests, were perfect. The following were the committees:—President—Colonel C. S. Gordon; Committee—Major Mills, Capt. Price, Lieut. Tew; Sub-Committee—Sergt. Major Westcott, Cr. Sergt. Scouse, Sergt. Grew, Sergt. Mann, Armourer, Sergt. Purchas, Sergt. Truelove, Corporal O'Brien, and Lieut. Corporal Stedman; Referee—Major Grant Dalton, Starters—Major Cox and Capt. Phillips; Judges—Col. Gordon, Capt. Carey, and Lieut. Stewart.

At the conclusion of the proceedings the prizes were presented to the winners by Mrs. Gordon.

The band of the Regiment was in attendance, under the able conductorship of Bandmaster

Bentley, and played several selections of popular music.

Following are the results:—

PUTTING THE SHOT, with follow-up, 1st \$4, 2nd \$2, 3rd \$1.

R. Nash, H. Co. 1
Smith, H. Co. 2
Maloney, H. Co. 3

RUNNING LONG JUMP, prizes \$4, \$2, \$1.

Rushton, D. Co. 1
S. M. Baldwin, F. Co. 2
Hopper, H. Co. 3

BOYS' HANDICAP (150 yards), prizes \$4, \$2, \$1.

Good, F. Co. 1
Drummer Laurence 2
Drummer Flowers 3

CORPORALS' RACE, 300 yards, prizes \$8, \$4, \$2.

Lance Corp. Page, C. Co. 1
Corp. Spurling, E. Co. 2
Corp. Appleby, D. Co. 3

QUARTER MILE RACE, prizes \$8, \$4, \$2.

Pt. Lymer, D. Co. 1
Pt. Barrel, G. Co. 2
Pt. Broadbent, A. Co. 3

SACK AND ORANGE RACE, 150 yards, prizes \$4, \$3, \$2, \$1.

Pt. Lawrence, C. Co. 1
Pt. Hudson, D. Co. 2
Pt. Hopper, H. Co. 3

CHILDREN'S HANDICAP, Boys and Girls, prizes \$2, \$1, \$1, \$1.

Westcott 1
Westcott 2
Shepherd 3

Somerville 4

MILE RACE, prizes \$15, \$7, \$3, \$1.

Lance Corp. Richardson, G. Co. 1
Pt. Broadbent, A. Co. 2
Drummer Blackwell, F. Co. 3

Lance Corp. Page, C. Co. 4

Richardson won by about 50 yards.

THROWING THE CRICKET BALL BETWEEN

FLAGS, prizes \$4, \$2, \$1.

Pt. Lymer, D. Co. 1
Pt. Grantham, H. Co. 2
Lance Corp. Westcott, A. Co. 3

BAND RACE (200 yards), prizes \$4, \$3, \$2, \$1.

Pt. Ager 1
Pt. Walton 2
Pt. Horner 3

RUNNING HIGH JUMP, prizes \$4, \$2, \$1.

Corpl. Spurling, E. Co. 1
Pt. Rushton, A. Co. 2
Pt. Lipscombe, E. Co. 3

SERGEANTS' RACE (200 yards), prizes \$8, \$4, \$2.

Drum Sergt. Baldwin 1
Sergt. Brunskill 2
Sergt. Blanchard 3

TOILET AND REFRESHMENT RACE, prizes \$4, \$3, \$2, \$1.

Prouss, H. Co. 1
Heyland, A. Co. 2
Hawlewood, D. Co. 3

Wade, F. Co. 4

HURDLE RACE, 120 yards (10 flights), prizes \$8, \$4, \$2.

Lymer, D. Co. 1
Oldham, H. Co. 2
Duffey, H. Co. 3

LEMON CUTTING, prizes \$4, \$3, \$2, \$1.

Burret and Cain 1
Hopper and Dimick 2
Teefe and Huggins 3

MILE RACE (open), prizes \$18, \$12, \$6, \$3.

Lance Corp. Richardson 1
Lance Corp. Page 2
Pt. Smith 3

100 YARDS RACE, prizes \$10, \$4, \$2, \$1.

Duffy, H. Co. 1
Barrel, G. Co. 2
Maloney, H. Co. 3

QUARTER MILE RACE FOR COLONIAL

TROOPS AND POLICE, viz. Hongkong Artillery, Engineers and Infantry, Sikh and Native

Police, prizes \$5, \$4, \$3, \$2.

Gundar Singh, R.A. 1
Tucker, Mall, R.A. 2
Muster Singh, R.A. 3

OFFICERS' HANDICAP (200 yards), prizes \$10, \$4, \$2, \$1.

start for every complete year over 6 years.
Captain Drew 1
Lieut. Gordon 2
Lieut. Barton 3

RAYONET FIGHTING BY COMPANY TEAMS
prize \$15, \$74, \$34.

H. Co. 1
F. Co. 2
Consolation Race, 200 yards, prizes \$4, \$2, \$1.

Ross, H. Co. 1
Lowson, A. Co. 2
Taylor, F. Co. 3
Tug-of-War, prizes \$23, \$114.

C. Co. 1
H. Co. 2

The Regimental Cup was won by H. Co. as gaining the most points throughout the Sports.

THE JAPAN TIDAL WAVE FUND.

REPORT OF KOBE COMMITTEE.

His Excellency the Governor has sent us the following letter and report for publication:—
Kobe, Japan, 1st February, 1897.

Sir,—I have the honour to present to Your Excellency, on behalf of the Tidal Wave Fund Committee, their final report, copies of audited statement of accounts, together with a summary of disbursements, all of which we trust will meet with Your Excellency's approval.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express on behalf of the Committee our appreciation of Your Excellency's distinguished co-operation.

—I am, &c.,

J. S. HAPPER,
Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

To His Excellency Sir William Robinson,
K.C.M.G., F.R.G.S., Governor, Hongkong.

Report of the Kobe Fund Committee to the Communities of Kobe, Shanghai, and Hongkong.

This Committee was elected at a public meeting held in Kobe on June 25, 1896, to raise funds and consider the best means of affording relief to the sufferers from the great tidal wave on the N.E. coast of Japan. The Committee thus elected notified the communities of Shanghai and Hongkong that they were ready to receive and disburse any funds raised by them; and, in response to their letters, funds were sent them from both the above-mentioned communities.

Subscriptions were received from the date of the Committee's organisation up to September 3, when the books were finally closed. The work of disbursing the funds thus received was greater than at first expected, and instead of completing the work by the end of the year, it is only now that the Committee can report that their work is completed.

Mr. Sim personally visited the afflicted districts in July-August, dispensing at that time part of the funds in cash, and part in necessities. On consulting with the Governors of the two Kien, and with other officials, he was advised to keep back a great part of the funds to supply the wants which the advent of cold weather would aggravate. On his return, at a meeting held on the 21st Aug., it was resolved to purchase further supplies and to order winter clothing, &c. After placing the orders, a series of storms and floods not only delayed the execution of the orders but damaged the railroad lines to such an extent that transportation facilities were seriously interfered with, and the work of the Committee was unavoidably delayed. Mr. Sim, therefore, made another trip to the scene of relief in November, arranging for the receipt and distribution of the goods, and late in December, after many disappointments and delays, the last shipment was made.

The financial statements and summary of expenditures, appended, need no explanation, except it be of interest to state that where cash was given Mr. Sim took a receipt from each individual which receipts were duly audited as per statement of account.

When it is considered that nearly two-thirds of the funds were expended in goods, necessitating distribution in localities deficient in transportation facilities, some idea may be arrived at of the work which has delayed the rendering of their account.

The Committee, therefore, feel that special thanks are due to Mr. Sim, who, at great personal discomfort, at his own expense, amid discomfort and hardship in travelling, so ably, thoroughly, and wisely distributed, or arranged for the distribution of cash and goods in such manner that the donors can feel confident that

every one who received aid was in actual distress, and that not a dollar was ignorantly or carelessly squandered on undeserving recipients. To Messrs De Ath, Lens, and Sim as purchasing sub-committee, are also due the best thanks of the Committee for the careful, intelligent, and economical methods by which the money was expended.

The Committee have great satisfaction in reporting that not only the people relieved, but their officials, have expressed in warmest terms their deep appreciation and gratefulness for the aid given. Would space permit letters from the Governors of the two prefectures, and from officials, village headmen, etc., could be published, but it must suffice to offer thus publicly the thanks of the recipients to all the generous donors. This appreciation, and the unflinching courtesy and accommodation afforded the Committee in carrying out its work, has been one of the pleasing features of the work, and no doubt a great deal of international sympathy, a closer bond between varying nationalities, will be a lasting result of this practical exhibition of sympathy with the suffering. It is worthy of especial notice that China and Japan, lately at war, have been drawn together by the contributions of Chinese to the relief of Japanese.

The Committee's thanks are due, and here-with tendered, to the Kobe Chronicle for promptly handing over a subscription list started by it, and for assistance in collecting the same as well as for the many favours shown in printing subscription forms, &c.; to the Kobe press generally for inserting advertisements, reports of subscriptions, and other courtesies, to the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank and Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China for kindly assistance in collecting and transmitting funds; to the Nippon Yusen Kaisha and the Government Railway for reductions in transportation rates; and to all who have aided Mr. Sim in the duties of distribution.

While actively engaged on this committee one member has been called away from all earthly labours, bringing forcibly to the minds of his colleagues the uncertainty of life. The committee desire to place on record the profound grief, the deep sense of loss, caused by the death on Jan. 18 of Mr. C. P. Hall. By his long experience of this country, his intimate knowledge of the people and their language, he was of valuable assistance, and by his personal character commanded the respect of those who were associated with him.

The Committee hope that their trust has been discharged satisfactorily to all subscribers and in disbanding feel that their work had its recompense in the consciousness that human suffering has been relieved in a measure.

It has been a privilege to be the almoners for such prompt and generous givers, and while they hope that this nation may be spared any repetition of such widespread disaster at the same time they cannot but hope that the traditional generosity of the dwellers in the Far East may never be found wanting, but may always be as magnificently exhibited as it has been in the year 1896 for the relief of the Tidal Wave sufferers.

R. KRENCKI, Chairman.

J. S. HAPPER, Hon. Sec. and Treas.

Committee:—

H.I.G.M.'s Consul, R. von Krencki, Chairman.

Rt. Rev. Bishop Awdry.

Rev. J. L. Atkinson, D.D.

A. De Ath, Esq.

A. C. Sim, Esq.

J. S. Happer, Esq., Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

Kobe, Japan, Feb. 1, 1897.

The accounts show total receipts amounting to \$15,485.06, and a corresponding expenditure in detail audited and found correct by Mr. C. Tulloch, accountant, Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, Kobe.

A very interesting ceremony took place at the Marine Engineers Institute, Shanghai, on the 8th February, when Mr. Peebles, late superintendent engineer of the China Navigation Co., was presented with a magnificent silver tea and coffee service by the engineers in the employ of the company, as a mark of their regard and appreciation. Mr. Peebles has left the China Navigation Co.'s service to join the Old Dock.

THE CLOSING SCENE IN THE CAREW CASE.

Never has so solemn and impressive a scene been enacted in a Consular Court in Yokohama as that which, on Monday afternoon, 1st February, closed the last public act of the Carew tragedy so far as concerns the unfortunate lady now convicted of murder. The day had been dark and dreary from the morning. Drizzling rain fell from a sullen, murky sky. The cold was piercing when the proceedings began, but as the hours wore on the atmosphere inside the little Court room seemed to grow stifling and oppressive, the excitement of all within rising to fever heat. His Lordship took his seat shortly after half-past ten, and at once began his charge to the jury, speaking until a little before twelve o'clock when the Court rose for lunch. The intensity of suppressed feeling that manifested itself at the outset was allayed somewhat by the calm, stately tones of the Judge, as he delivered, with terrible lucidity the crushing arguments of his charge. But, in the afternoon, evidences of the painful suspense under which the audience laboured could not be concealed. The accused woman, haggard, thin, and careworn, her lips tightly compressed, her frame rigid with nervous energy, could scarcely be seen behind the screen that shut off the back of the prisoner's dock, but to the Judge, the jury, and the journalists who sat facing her, the great and shocking change wrought in her appearance by long torture on the rack of suspense was painfully visible. Behind the Bench, and at the side where the jury sat, the windows were half-draped with dark blue curtains, and these added to the gloom of the darkened Court room. At twenty-five minutes past two the Judge concluded his summing up, and with a few minutes the Jury had left the Court.

The Judge then left Court. He was followed out by the Counsel for the Crown, Mr. H. S. Wilkinson, and Mr. H. C. Litchfield. The prisoner's Counsel, Mr. J. F. Lowder, looking worn and anxious, remained a short time, to address a few cheering words to his unhappy client. Then he, too, left. Slowly the minutes ticked themselves away, but within a briefer space than had been expected, signs that the Jury had agreed began to be discernible. The Chief Clerk of the Court, Mr. C. D. Moss, entered, followed by Mr. Wilkinson. Then came Mr. Litchfield, and finally Mr. Lowder. Anxiety was depicted on every face. At three o'clock the judge entered, and within a minute a clatter of feet on the paved stones leading to the Court's private entrance announced that the jury were returning. The accused stood up and, with parted lips and steady, piercing eyes, awaited the words that were to restore her to liberty or condemn her to a felon's doom. The Clerk of the Court formally put the question to the jury: "Gentlemen of the jury, have you agreed upon your verdict?" The answer was in the affirmative. Then, his voice quivering with emotion, the Clerk propounded the next momentous question. Mr. Patterson, foreman of the Jury, a Scotchman of that calm, firm type that recalls the old Covenanters, replied:—"Guilty." The silence that ensued was terrible. The face of the accused became over-spread with a ghastly dull blue tint, the lines of her lips changed to chalky white, her eyes assumed the look of an animal stricken to death, her hands clutched convulsively at the dock. Asked whether she had anything to say why sentence should not be pronounced upon her, she replied, in a voice whose husky dullness contrasted painfully with her wonted tones, "No," and sank back exhausted into her chair. The Judge then sat upright in his place. It could be seen by all that he mastered this question with the greatest difficulty. First he informed Mr. Lowder that the sentence he was about to pronounce—the sentence that must follow such a verdict—could not be carried out unless the Court were so instructed by Sir Ernest Satow, Her Majesty's Representative in Japan, under his own hand and seal. Amid an even more painful silence, the three-cornered black cap always worn by British Judges when about to pronounce sentence. In a voice broken and hoarse, he uttered the words for which he had waited so long, "I find you guilty of the murder of your soul"—being scarcely aware that

Edith May Hallowell Carew, the bright, attractive, refined lady, whom so many in this small community have known intimately, and so many have been happy to call their friend, passed from the pale of the society that she once graced, stepped down, a condemned felon, with the sentence of a shameful death ringing in her ears. There were some whose morbid curiosity so far overpowered their feelings of humanity, that they waited to see her descend the steps of the Court to the sombre vehicle which carried her back to gaol. We can only hope that a chance of mercy is suggested by the words of the Judge in prefacing the sentence of death. [This hope has been fulfilled—Ed. D.P.] It falls within the competence of Sir Ernest Satow to save this most unhappy woman from the gallows, he will be laying up a blessed memory for himself and earning the strong approval and gratitude of his nationals by exercising his power in the cause of clemency. Justice demands no such shocking sacrifice as her killing. Who shall venture to gauge the suffering that drove her to a deed so desperate? If she sinned, she was also deeply sinned against. The story of her life is before us. The giddiness, the moral instability, the love of admiration, that marked some of her acts—are they not sins to which an environment such as that of her daily existence is only too apt to betray human beings? For the sake of her family; for the sake of her children; for the sake of the friends that still have the courage and constancy to support her; for the sake of the repentance that she can work out by years of patient effort, we must all hope that mercy will be substituted for vengeance. Civilization is happily leading the world farther and farther from the stern law of equal retaliation, and teaching us the truth of the old principle that the virtue of justice consists in moderation.—*Japan Mail*.

WAS MRS. CAREW INSANE?

Referring to the Carew case the *Japan Gazette* says:—"Although the evidence given in the course of the trial and the summing-up of the Judge point to a crime for which there are no extenuating circumstances, the behaviour of the prisoner, the fictions she invented and with which she deluded Mr. Dickinson and other of her friends, the Annie Luke letters, and her many conflicting statements seem to point to a disordered mind. This mental derangement, it is true, was not apparently sufficiently marked to justify her counsel in pleading insanity; but no one who has had an opportunity of noticing her demeanour from the opening of the inquest to the close of the trial could feel that she was absolutely sane."

THE GROUNDS OF THE REPRIEVE.

It appears that the sentence passed by the judge upon Mrs. Carew was not commuted in consequence of any question arising upon the evidence, as the following paragraph from the *Japan Mail* will show:—"Her Majesty's Consul has received a dispatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Tokyo to the effect that he has had under consideration the subject of the sentence of death passed in H.M. Court, Yokohama, on the 1st Jan., on Edith May Hallowell Carew, for the murder of her husband, and that, in view of the Imperial Proclamation of H.M. the Emperor, dated the 31st ult., granting to all Japanese subjects under sentence on that day a remission of punishment, it appears proper that a similar measure of grace should be extended to the criminal in this case, whose trial in a Court sitting in His Majesty's dominions had been proceeding for some days before and was about to be brought to a conclusion at the time of His Majesty's proclamation. Her Majesty's Minister has accordingly decided not to direct that the sentence of death be carried into execution, and in virtue of the powers conferred upon him by the Order in Council, 1865, and otherwise, has directed that, in lieu of suffering capital punishment, Mrs. Carew shall be imprisoned, with hard labour, for life."

THE WHITE ARSENIC ACCOUNTED FOR.

A mystery of the Carew case that was left unsolved by the trial was the discovery of white arsenic at the post mortem, no white arsenic having been traced to the house. On this point the *Japan Gazette* says:—"We believe the ex-

planation to be very simple. We have interviewed Mr. Schedel and he has confirmed a theory which we held, that by careless dispensing, that is to say by the use of common potash and negligent filtering, it would be quite possible, nay more it would be very probable, that minute particles of white arsenic might be present in suspension in the arsenic dispensed by the Japanese chemist, and as three ounces were purchased all the specks found by Dr. Divers might easily have been derived from the Fowler's solution, although arsenic once in solution could not by any possibility crystallize into white arsenic."

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

The letter-carriers' shops in Canton have distributed to the shops of the seventy-two guilds a long written statement concerning the new postal service, asking them to devise ways to deal with the new postal laws. The statement says that since the postal laws have been brought into force, there is great hindrance to business, for letters cannot be delivered so quickly as before and often many of them cannot be delivered until a day or two after their arrival. People also now have to pay at least three and a half cents per letter instead of the one or one and a half cents formerly charged by the letter-carriers, for they have to pay double postage, two cents to the Government and one and a half cents to the letter-carrier. Poor people employed in Hongkong and Macao suffer the most, for they used to send money home by the letter-carriers to support their parents, wives, and children, who depend solely upon them for their livelihood. They cannot so easily send money home now, and they have to pay heavy postage expenses. The Government simply wants to increase the revenue by squeezing the people while reducing the facilities offered for postage business.

The weather in Canton was piercingly cold after the China New Year. Heavy rain was experienced on the 7th inst. and on the 8th the roaring of thunder was heard. On the 9th, 10th, and 11th instant ice made its appearance and some beggars were frozen to death in the streets.

A junk was seized a few days ago at Limchow for secretly carrying arms, contrary to the law. The junk has been towed to Canton and the junk master is being detained for trial.

The likin offices were reopened on the 11th instant after the China New Year holidays.

On the 29th ultimo a junk towed by a steam launch was robbed near Sanoi district. The robbers carried away booty to the value of over ten thousand dollars. When they finished their depredation the robbers boarded the steam launch and compelled the coxswain to steam to Kutsan, where they all landed.

A fight broke out several days ago between the two villages named Tantau and Laichung in Sichin district. The fight originated by some people belonging to Laichung village going over to Tantau village to steal fish from a pond. One of the thieves who was arrested by the people of Tantau village was imprisoned in a temple. The people belonging to the village of Laichung were very angry that one of their clansmen was locked up in prison and they at once commenced a fight with the people of Tantau village. The magistrate of Namhoi went in person the other day to the district to stop the fight.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

12th February.

The Lisbon Ministry has fallen and a new one has been appointed, Senhor Luciano de Castro being the Premier and Senhor Barros Gomes the Minister for the Colonies. In consequence of this change in the Ministry Senhor Horta e Costa has sent in his resignation as Governor of this colony and is leaving by the next French mail. Thus we are going to lose His Excellency sooner than we expected, much to the regret of the whole colony. The new Governor, when he arrives, cannot be expected to have the same knowledge of the requirements of the colony as Senhor Horta e Costa nor to be familiar with the plans of the latter for carry-

ing out the dredging of the harbour and effecting other public improvements. As a rule, too, a new Governor does not like to carry out the plans of his predecessor, more especially when he belongs to an opposite party, but Senhor Horta e Costa was never influenced by considerations of that kind. It is said that there are some twenty applicants for the appointment as Governor and no doubt a favourite of the new Ministry will be sent out.

On Wednesday a solemn service was held at the Cathedral for the late Bishop, the Right Rev. Bishop Medeiros, H.E. the Governor, the Chief Justice, the Consuls, and the naval, military, and civil officers were present. Every twenty minutes the Monte Fort fired minute guns, and at the end of the ceremony, which lasted about three hours, the second company of the Regiment, which was stationed at the door of the Cathedral, fired two volleys, after which the band played the funeral march and the Monte Fort fired a salute of nineteen guns.

The Right Rev. Bishop of Mozambique has been appointed Bishop of Macao.

None of the prisoners who recently made their escape from gaol have been recaptured. I hear that the Government has issued orders for the improvement of the safety of the gaol and that the work will shortly be commenced.

HONGKONG.

Several interesting events have transpired during the past week. On the 10th inst. a Russian engineer was fined \$300 for trespassing in the field works of Hongham Fort. A most successful dance was given by the Hongkong Volunteer Corps on the evening of the same day, and on Wednesday and Thursday the West Yorkshire Regiment held an athletic meeting, which was much enjoyed. The Sanitary Board had an important meeting on Thursday, when the quarantine regulations were discussed at some length and alterations suggested to the Governor in Council. A fire broke out at the Government Offices on Monday, but fortunately the flames were extinguished before any serious damage was done. The shareholders in the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation met on Saturday and the shareholders in the China Fire Insurance Company, Limited, met on Monday.

Ice was found at the Peak on the 11th February, for the second time this year, and a specimen sent from the Eyrie by the Hon. E. R. Belilios was on view at the Club.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donation to the funds of the Hospitals:—

Fresh Fish Guild \$30.

The stamp revenue last month amounted to \$21,319, being an increase of \$2,316 on the amount collected in the corresponding month last year. The increase is more than accounted for under the head of probate.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the Hospitals:—

Choi Tse Mei \$25.

A Friend 10.

Messrs. John D. Humphreys & Son inform us that they have received the following telegram from their mining manager in Australia:—"Have struck Eureka Reef at a depth of 200 feet; prospects are encouraging; removing, Balmoral Company battery alongside Olivers. The mill will work night and day."

The French steamer *Canton*, which recently struck a rock and foundered near Tourane, will, we learn from Tonkin papers, probably be raised, the divers having found the damage not very serious. It is said the *Compagnie Nationale*, to which the vessel belongs, will treat with a Hongkong Company for her salvage.

On Monday afternoon Surgeon Colonel Evatt delivered a lecture before the Odd Volumes Society on "The care of the British Army in War." Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., occupied the chair and there was a large attendance. The lecture was attentively listened to and the lecturer was frequently applauded. At the close a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Colonel Evatt.

A thief, who was discharged from Victoria Gaol at eight o'clock on the 9th February, went straight down to Mr. Ruttonjee's shop in D'Aguilar Street and stole two pounds of ham. An assistant promptly seized the thief, who found himself in gaol again an hour after his release. He is now serving forty-two days' imprisonment.

At the Police Court on Monday a Chinaman was charged on suspicion with causing the death of a boat girl, whose body was found on Friday near Aplichau, Aberdeen. Another man has been arrested by the Chinese authorities at Chungchau in connection with the affair. It is supposed that the girl was assaulted and then thrown into the water, and in support of this theory the water police heard cries near the spot where the murder was probably committed. They searched the waters at the time but it was not until the following morning that the body was discovered. The prisoner charged with the murder has been remanded.

The necessity existing for the proper protection of pedestrians at various places in the Hill District by means of walls or railings has been obvious to the most casual individual for years past, and should have been provided to avert disaster. When some official has fallen over a precipice in a fog and broken his neck perhaps the needed protection will be given. An illustration of the need of it was furnished a few nights since, when a fog veiled the path in obscurity. An amah in the employ of a resident at Mountain View was proceeding from that terrace to Plunkett Gap, and losing sight of the path below Craigieburn fell over on to the plateau below, some fifteen feet. There she remained helpless and presumably unconscious until about six o'clock the following morning, when she was discovered and conveyed to hospital. This place is by no means the most dangerous place at the Peak. There are many worse, and the marvel is that the children do not frequently come to grief over the banks when playing about.

The colony will shortly lose the services of the present head of the Public Works Department, Hon. F. A. Cooper, who has accepted the appointment of Director-General of Public Works in Ceylon. We understand that he will probably leave Hongkong about May. Few men have been subjected to such severe criticism, coupled with a large measure of ignorant abuse, as Mr. Cooper was during the earlier years of his connection with this colony. It was his duty to introduce a new system of drainage which the public for the most part did not understand and did not want, and Mr. Cooper on his part did not go out of his way to conciliate public opinion, his attitude towards it being one of apparent indifference. As time went on, however, his professional abilities and his earnestness and devotion to duty gradually became recognised and he commanded the respect even of those who in the earlier years had been amongst the most bitter of his opponents. Ceylon is to be congratulated on the acquisition of a very competent public officer and Hongkong will be fortunate if it secures a man equally competent to succeed him here.

On Monday afternoon Commander Hastings held the inquest on the body of Johannes Petersen, shipbroker, whose body was found in the harbour on Saturday morning. The deceased, who first came to the colony about four years ago, was a shipbroker, and he returned here from Amoy on the 7th inst. He had previously been to Formosa and intended to go home, but he obtained a position in the firm of Messrs. Lamke and Rogge. He lived with a friend at Roseneath, Kowloon, and was last seen in the house on the afternoon of the 12th inst., when he appeared to be rather strange in his behaviour. He was not in straitened circumstances but had complained of an attack of fever at Amoy which confined him to his bed for nearly a fortnight. On the 12th inst. he wrote a meaningless letter to Messrs. Lamke and Rogge containing accusations against members of the German Club, for which there was no foundation. He also wrote a chit to two members of the Club which was very confused and was clearly the production of a disordered brain. The jury—Messrs. G. C. Fullerton, J. J. Leiria, and G. M. Gutierrez—returned a verdict of suicide whilst temporarily insane.

The maximum temperature last month was 79.2, on the 29th, and the minimum, 46.7, on the 19th, the mean being 63.1. The rainfall amounted to 2.26 inches.

At 1.30 p.m. on the 11th February a fire broke out at 24, Cross Street. The upper storey is a family house and the lower storey is used as a dealer's shop. The Fire Brigade, under Deputy Superintendent Corcoran, promptly attended and the result of their efforts was that very little damage was done, the first floor and the staircase being only slightly damaged by fire.

Mr. Marcus Warre Slade was on the 11th Feb. approved, admitted, and enrolled to practice as a barrister in the Supreme Court of Hongkong. Mr. Slade, who was introduced to Sir John Carrington (Chief Justice) by Hon. W. M. Goodman (Attorney-General), was admitted to the Inner Temple on the 12th January, 1888, and called to the bar on the 10th June, 1891.

At the Harbour Master's Court on the 11th Feb. four seamen belonging to the British ship *Sumbawa* were charged with refusing to obey the lawful commands of the master. The men went on board the ship in a drunken condition on the 1st inst. and asked for their discharge. This was refused and on the following day they declined to work. They were sent to gaol for fourteen days with hard labour.

We have received from Messrs. Kelly and Walsh, the publishers, a copy of "People of the Land of Chin," a series of photographs by Mr. G. U. Price, of Amoy. Mr. Price is to be complimented on the excellence of his pictures, which have been reproduced in colotype by K. Ogawa, Tokyo. The list of illustrations is as follows:—A merchant, an artisan, a labourer, a Buddhist priest, a mourner.

Two seamen named A. Andersen and G. Steinbren, of the British ship *Sumbawa*, were charged at the Harbour Master's Court on the 12th Feb. with wilfully disobeying the orders of the master, Carl Richberg. Steinbren apologized for his misconduct and the charge against him was withdrawn. Andersen was offered the option of returning to the ship, but he declined to accept it and was therefore sent to gaol for fourteen days with hard labour.

We are informed that an animal resembling a medium sized tiger was seen near the reservoir at Kowloon on Sunday last at about 6.30 p.m. He was fired at after a pause of about 2 minutes, i.e., the time taken to observe it well, to open the bag for a big shot cartridge, to unload and reload the gun and advancing five paces nearer. He was during the time quiet and steady in a standing position looking towards the road, and when fired at with a shot cartridge from a 20 bore fowling piece at a distance of about 35 paces, he slowly turned back, went on, and disappeared in the hills.

A couple of Chinamen were charged at the Police Court on Saturday with stealing two baskets of tiles from Taipingshan. One of the prisoners said he was a Christian and held services in New Street and the year before last, during the coolie strike, he endeavoured to bring about peace between the dissatisfied coolies. He called Detective Sergeant McIvor to prove this statement, but the Magistrate said he failed to see the connection between the coolie strike and the theft, and therefore each prisoner would have to go to gaol for six weeks with hard labour.

At the Magistracy on the 12th Feb. before Hon. Commander Hastings, Arthur Myers, harbour runner for the Hongkong Hotel, was summoned for assaulting S. A. Ramjahn, counter clerk at the hotel. Mr. Mounsey appeared for the complainant. A gentleman went to the office of the hotel and sent up his card to a lady who was staying there. The lady came downstairs, but could not find the gentleman and Ramjahn asked Myers where the visitor was. Myers replied that he was not going to keep guard over everybody and then he assailed Ramjahn with some offensive remarks and also rushed behind the counter and struck complainant on the nose and also on the left temple. In cross-examination complainant said he did not provoke the assault, but he afterwards used opprobrious epithets towards defendant. A witness named Marques, the bill collector, said the men closed and fought. The defendant, who said he struck complainant in consequence of some insulting remarks, was fined 50 cents.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The number of griffins shipped from Tientsin to Shanghai last year was 539, against 475 in 1895 and 167 in 1894.

We have received a copy of the Eighth Annual issue of the Directory for Bangkok and Siam for 1897, printed and published at the *Bangkok Times* Office. We cannot better describe this work than by giving the title page, which describes it as a handy, reliable book of reference for all classes, with calendars and every information about weights and measures, Siamese festivals, postage and telegraph tariffs, treaties, notes on the ancient and modern history of Siam, and including official and general directories, corrected up to date of publication. These make it invaluable for residents in Siam and for those having intimate business relations with that country. The book is neatly got up and the directory portion at least seems well up to date. In view of the restless and encroaching tendencies of our French friends we would suggest the inclusion in next issue of the declaration by Great Britain and France respecting spheres of influence, signed at London on 15th January, 1896.

Sportsmen fond of big game might possibly get a little excitement by taking a run up to Foochow. The *Echo* of the 6th February says:—News reaches us from the coast in the neighbourhood of Samsah bay of general alarm having spread throughout the rural population owing to the extraordinary boldness of the tigers prowling about there night and day, and according to the reports there is good reason for it. For some time past dogs and pigs have been disappearing with marvellous rapidity and no doubt all would have been cleared off in time had not the natives taken the precaution of housing every living thing. This did not suit the striped monsters; they were left without the means of subsistence. Hunger made them bold and they began tapping at the doors of the houses. In one case they did this with good effect. A native who had made himself comfortable for the night hearing the tap got out of bed and went outside to make enquiries as to the reason of the disturbance and was immediately seized by the caller and carried off. As he appeared somewhat long in returning another of the family turned out to look after him and shared the same fate at the jaws of a second *Lah Hoo*. The fear now is that having once tasted human blood the noble creatures will acquire a relish for it. The people appear for the moment to be terror-stricken. All the houses in the district are barricaded and the men will not venture forth to their work excepting in small parties.

A mate of the British steamer *Pakling* was brought up before the Court at Saigon on the 27th January. The *Courrier de Saigon* says that the charge consisted of disorderly conduct in public and assaulting the police. The *Semaine Coloniale* states that these offences were aggravated by their having been committed at the residence of the Lieutenant-Governor there. The Court sentenced the mate to a fine of five hundred francs, besides costs and twenty-five dollars to make damages good. The *Semaine Coloniale* dwells upon the lenity of the Court, considering that the Lieutenant-Governor, the representative of the French flag, had been aggrieved by the prisoner's conduct. Mr. Tremlett, the British Consul, appeared in Court and spoke for his compatriot. The mate expressed deep regret for his conduct, and sorrow for his want of respect towards the French nation. When the judgment was translated to him, his face beamed with joy at getting off so easily. The *Semaine Coloniale* draws the following moral:—We ask what would have been the penalty laid upon a Frenchman who should misbehave himself at the residence of the Governor at Singapore, or Colombo, or any other British city? At least we may venture to say that, unless powerful influence had been exercised on his behalf, he would not have got off with less than a penalty of one hundred pounds fine, and would have been imprisoned until the fine had been paid. We are glad and generous, be it so. But we should make those feel who are not so towards us.

The Osaka Shosen Kaisha's steamship *Sanko-maru* collided with the N. Y. K. steamship *Omari-maru* off the Iye coast on the 3rd February. The O. S. K. boat quickly foundered and all on board, save nine persons, were drowned. The total number of lives lost is stated to be 63. She was carrying 59 passengers at the time of the collision. The *Choyo-maru* was specially provisioned and equipped and despatched from Kobe to the scene of the disaster on the afternoon of the 4th. The *Sanko-maru* was a Hyogo built vessel 157 feet in length and of 320 tons.—*Nagasaki Shipping List.*

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1896-97	1895-96
	lbs.	lbs.
Canton and Macao	6,284,513	7,510,177
Shanghai and Hankow.....	18,410,313	21,317,405
Foochow	12,749,506	14,676,073
	37,444,332	43,503,655

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1896-97	1895-96
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai	19,800,591	29,094,771
Amoy	18,226,755	11,834,331
Foochow	11,716,764	12,199,184
	49,753,110	53,128,286

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1896-97	1895-96
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow	22,949,123	27,240,863

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1896-97	1895-96
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	27,365,005	29,691,011
Kobe	14,777,490	18,434,402
	42,142,495	48,035,413

SILK.

Shanghai, 12th February.—(From Mr. A. R. Burkill's Circular).—London quotations to 10th current are "Gold Kilns 8/6, Blue Elephants 10/3, market dull." Raw Silk.—Since our last circular under date 23th January business has been interrupted by the native New Year holidays. There has been noticeable during the past few days a little better demand for Tsatlees of the Gold Kiln class, and Exchange having fallen about 1 per cent., a corresponding advance in tael prices has taken place. The market closes firm at our quotations. Tsatlees.—Some 800/1,000 bales have been booked during the fortnight, demand running especially on low grades, which have advanced about 1/2 5 picul, arrivals have been but small, and stocks of favourite chops are getting low. Taysams.—A small business only has been done in Coarse Silks without any change in prices. Yellow Silks are still wanted, and the small arrivals are generally bought up at once at full prices. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, 28th January to 10th February, 213 bales White, 311 piculs Yellow, and 414 piculs Wild Silks. Re-reels and Filatures.—Settlements of 150/200 bales Hand Filatures are reported, and of about 50 bales No. 3 Steam Filatures. It is more than probable that some further quantities of these Silks are going forward on joint or on Chinese account. The Export of Steam Filatures to date is: to London 6 bales, to Continent 1,730 bales, and to America 1,864 bales. Wild Silks.—Very little doing, prices unchanged.—Waste Silk.—No business. Pongees.—About 1,000 pieces have been bought. We quote 19 in. by 18 yds. 22/3 oz. at Tls. 2.80.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1896-97	1895-96
	bales.	bales.
Canton	18,456	12,577
Shanghai	88,043	46,395
Yokohama	12,344	16,235
	69,443	75,207

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1896-97	1895-96
	bales.	bales.
Canton	2,068	9,047
Shanghai	4,549	8,587
Yokohama	13,892	26,679
	21,109	44,313

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 16th February.—No business has been reported since the China New Year holidays. Quotations are nominally \$48.00 to \$48.50.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 16th February.—Prices have advanced, but the amount of business transacted has been small, the influence of the native New Year holidays not having yet disappeared. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White...	\$7.27 to 7.30	per pol.
do. " 2, White...	6.65 to 6.67	"
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown...	4.50 to 4.52	"
do. " 2, Brown...	4.30 to 4.32	"
Swatow, No. 1, White...	7.21 to 7.23	"
do. " 2, White...	6.30 to 6.32	"
Swatow, No. 1, Brown...	4.40 to 4.41	"
do. " 2, Brown...	4.22 to 4.25	"
Soochow Sugar Candy	11.00 to 11.09	"
Shekloong	9.52 to 9.54	"

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The steamer *Morven*, sailed on the 28th Jan. From Hongkong for New York:—20,558 rolls matting, 1,172 packages merchandise, 200 boxes cassia, 55 cases lighth paper 1,256 packages fire-crackers, 100 bales feathers, 7 packages tea, 11 boxes camphor and 24 bales chinareed. For Kobe:—640 tubs camphor and 26 cases curios.

The steamer *Sydney*, sailed on the 3rd February. For France:—146 bales raw silk, 4 cases silk piece goods, 35 cases essential oil, 3 cases fans, 300 packages tea and 2 packages matting.

The German steamer *Prinz Heinrich*, sailed on the 3rd February. For Singapore:—1 case curios. For Colombo:—1,700 bags sugar, 50 packages firecrackers and 3 cases sundries. For Suez:—23 packages tea. For Smyrna:—10 cases essential oil. For Trieste:—187 packages tea and 5 cases essential oil. For Genoa:—337 rolls matting, 10 cases essential oil, 8 cases curios, 1 case chinaware and 1 case sweets and straw hats. For Lyons:—36 bales raw silk. For Basle:—76 bales pierced cocoons. For Milan:—200 bales waste silk and 50 bales raw silk. For Barcelona:—113 bales canes. For Antwerp:—617 bales leaf tobacco, 181 bales feathers, 85 bales bamboo scraps, 20 packages cassia, 2 cases staranised and 1 case curios. Antwerp and/or Hamburg and/or London:—150 bales galangal. For Amsterdam:—71 bales leaf tobacco, 50 cases ginger, 10 cases tea stick and 2 cases camphor wood. For Rotterdam:—46 bales leaf tobacco. For London:—14 boxes essential oil. For Bremen:—233 rolls matting, 50 cases tea stick, 20 cases ginger, 3 cases cigars, 2 cases sundries, 2 bags coffee and 1 case china ink. For Hamburg:—327 bales feathers, 120 packages firecrackers, 30 rolls matting, 20 cases essential oil, 14 cases iron rollers, 4 cases chinaink, 2 cases ginger, 2 cases ironware, 3 boxes paper and 1 box tea.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 16th February.—Bengal.—There has been a further improvement in the market, and prices have advanced to \$7.0 for New Patna, \$7.10 for Old Patna, \$7.05 for New Benares, and \$7.30 for Old Benares.

Malwa.—The demand has continued steady and rates have been maintained. Latest figures are as follow:—

New (this yr's)	\$760 with allance of 0 to 4 cts.
" (last yr's)	\$780 " 1 to 1 1/2 "
Old	\$790 " 0 to 1 "

Persian.—There has been a fair amount of business transacted during the past week. Oil drug continues to be quoted at \$480 to \$560; and Paper-wrapped at \$500 to \$570 according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna	670 chests.
Old Patna	1,070 "
New Benares	160 "
Old Benares	185 "
Malwa	200 "
Persian	520 "

DATE	PATNA		BENARES		MALWA	
	New	Old	New	Old	New	Old
1897	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Feb. 11	6961	700	6961	7221	760/770	760
Feb. 12	700	7021	700	725	760/770	760
Feb. 13	700	705	700	725	760/770	760
Feb. 14	700	705	700	725	760/770	760
Feb. 15	700	7071	705	730	760/770	760
Feb. 16	700	710	705	730	760/770	760

RICE.

HONGKONG, 16th February.—Business has not yet been fully resumed since the China New Year holidays. Prices have declined. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.22 to 2.25
Round, good quality	2.42 to 2.45
" Long	2.65 to 2.68
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2	2.27 to 2.30
" Garden, " No. 1	2.83 to 2.70
" White	3.23 to 3.25
" Fino Cargo	3.37 to 3.40

COALS.

HONGKONG, 16th February.—Market quiet. Quotations are:—

Carbide	\$ — to 16.50	ex godown, nom.
Australian	6.50 to 6.75	ex ship.
Milke Lump	6.00 to 6.50	ex ship, nominal.
Milke Small	5.00 to 5.25	ex ship, do.
Milke Lump	5.90 to 6.00	ex ship, steady.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 16th February.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—*Bombay Yarn*.—25 bales No. 8 at \$77.50, 490 bales No. 10 at \$79.50 to \$83, 210 bales No. 12 at \$83 to \$87.50, 220 bales No. 16 at \$89 to \$94, 795 bales No. 20 at \$94 to \$110. *Grey Shirtings*.—500 pieces 10 lbs. Blue Angle at \$3.621, 1,800 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Green Peach at \$2.35, 900 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Red Joss at \$2.65. *White Shirtings*.—250 pieces K. K. at \$3.90, 200 pieces O at \$4.25.

METALS.—*Iron*.—1,680 piculs round bars at \$3.60. *Tin*.—400 slabs Fungchai at \$32.

Shanghai, 11th February.—(From Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report).—*Piece Goods*.—Our last circular was published on 28th January, and the interval has been fully taken up, as far as Native's are concerned, in arranging their settlements, which have to outward appearances been adjusted to the satisfaction of all interested. There are, however, symptoms in several cases that dealers have bought rather more than they wanted, and this remark applies more particularly to Fancy Goods and Sheetings, of which there are visible supplies for many months to come. As usual at this time of the year the sales published partake of the complimentary type, and while the business made public appeared small several lines of considerable extent have been arranged on private terms. These transactions have no doubt been facilitated by the easier feeling, that at present appears to be ruling the Manchester market, but the general tone here is not buoyant and the market, as a whole, is dull. The export from Manchester last month was 33,000,000 yards of Plain Cotton to Hongkong and China, and while these figures compare very favourably with those (67,000,000 yards) of the same month last year, they are not excessive. Latest advices from Liverpool quote Cotton at 3 1/2 d.

METALS.—(From Messrs. Alex. Biefield & Co.'s Report, 12th February).—During the past fortnight nothing of consequence has been done on account of the China New Year holidays. Business has not really commenced yet, although buyers have been making some enquiries. Sellers, however, are not yet ready, and as the native banks have not re-opened it is impossible to foretell how the market will tend when business is really started. Reports have been received here of a transaction in Osaka, Japan, which will interest this market. 1,000 piculs new Japanese Horse shoes have been sold there for the Siberian market at \$9 per picul. So this is the first indication of serious competition in another of our best lines. The following transactions have been closed during the week:—140 tons Old Round Iron at 90 to 92/6 c.i.f. 40 tons Old Boiler Plate at 83/ c.i.f. 80 tons New Boiler Plate at 26.11 c.i.f.

JOINT STOCK SHARES

HONGKONG. February 16th.—Rates continue to advance and the market remains fairly active. A good general business has been transacted and most stocks close in demand.

BANKS. Hongkong and Shanghai.—The enquiry reported in last circular resulted in fair sales at 184 per cent. prem. cum dividend; shares also changed hands at 188 for March. Small buyers at these rates have been unable to obtain shares and the market closes with cash buyers at the equivalent cash rate ex div., i.e. 175 per cent. prem. Nationals continue on offer at 233 with no sales and Bank of China remain a dead letter.

MARINE INSURANCE.—Generally have ruled quieter and beyond small sales of China Traders, Unions and Cantons at quotations there is nothing to report.

FIRE INSURANCE.—Hongkong Fires in anticipation of a good report and fair dividend have risen considerably and sales have been effected at 382½, 385, 387½, 390, and 395 for cash; market closing with buyers. The report just issued is considered very satisfactory. It recommends a dividend of \$22 per share; a bonus of \$19,191.93 to contributors, and placing \$21,688 to reserve fund, which will then stand at \$1,021,688. The net premia collected for 1895, after paying all losses and re-insurances, amounted to \$250,085, whilst the amount brought forward in 1896 working account is \$304,817.76, an increase on 1895 of \$44,105.12. China Fires have continued quiet, and the weakness reported in last circular continuing sales were effected in the early part of the week at \$112, \$111, and reported ones at \$110; at time of writing, however, probably in sympathy with Hongkong's, the market is much firmer and shares are enquired for at \$113 cash and at \$114 for March without finding sellers.

SHIPPING.—With the exception of Hongkong, Canton and Macao the market has been dull with very little business. Hongkong, Canton and Macao have ruled in decidedly better favour, with a fair to large business at 33½ to 34 for cash and at better than equivalent rates for time. At time of closing market is steady at 33½ after sales at 34. Rumours are again current that the long delayed opening of the West River is about to take place. Indo-Chinas after sales at the advanced rate of \$47 and \$47½ for settlements have steadied a little to \$47 cash, with enquiries at equivalent rates forward. Douglases have continued on offer the whole week at \$61½ to \$62 without leading to any but a small business. China Mutual Preferences continue in demand without bringing out any shares. China Manillas continue in statu quo.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars appear to have taken a decided upward turn and have ruled firm at 138, 139, 140, 141, and 142 with sales; market closing strong. Luzons remain out of the market and more or less nominal at quotation.

MINING.—Punjoms have continued to rule firmer with sales at 88½, 89½, 90½, and 91½, and a better feeling has prevailed in the market. Raubs have been steady to strong with sales at \$12, closing steady. Jebebus have changed hands in small lots at quotations. Olivers and New Balmorals continue more or less out of the market with only very small sales of the latter at \$140; in view of the issue of preference shares quotations must be considered as nominal. Charbonnages neglected.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks, after the temporary small decline reported in last circular, have more than recovered their position. Sales have been made at somewhat erratic rates—231, 234, and 235, 236 and 237 for settlements, 235 and 236 for March, and 240 and 242 for April; a fair business was put through at these rates and market closes decidedly firm at 237 per cent. prem. cash and at equivalent forward rates. The report issued yesterday shows, including the amount brought forward from last account, \$598,360.34 for appropriation, a result within \$22,687.08 of the previous six months. This amount the directors with the consent of the shareholders propose to deal with as follows:—A dividend of 8 and a bonus of 4 per cent. to shareholders; a bonus of \$20,000 to contributing shareholders; a bonus of \$20,500 to the European staff; an addition to Reserve fund

of \$200,000, writing off the Kowloon and Cosmopolitan Docks \$61,255.68, and carrying forward \$104,104.71 to new account. The Docks are still full of work and are likely to remain so for some time to come. Kowloon Wharves have been in steady demand at \$59 and \$59½ without finding sellers and close with buyers. Wanchais have changed hands in small lots at \$44 and New Amoy Docks at \$17.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have ruled rather weaker with sales at \$77½ and \$77. West Points have changed hands at \$20 and close with buyers. Humphreys Estates have found buyers at \$94 closing with sellers. The report now published recommends the payment of a dividend of 7 per cent. after taking \$5,000 from equalisation of dividend fund, and carrying forward \$519.29. Hotels have found buyers at \$38, market closing steady. No dividend is expected for the half-year, but the earnings, which have been good, will, it is believed, be devoted to writing off old and paying for new furniture and improvements.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have ruled quieter with sales at \$21½ and \$22. Watsons have changed hands at quotation. Fenwicks are enquired for at \$32½ and Tramways at \$95. Electrics after sales at \$7.75 have advanced by easy stages to \$8.25.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		(\$343.75, ex d. & b. 175 % prem. = nominal)
Hongkong & Shanghai...	\$125	nominal
China & Japan, prf.	£5	nominal
Do. ordinary...	£1 10s.	£5, buyers
Do. deferred...	£1	
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$26½, sales & sellers
Founders Shares...	£1	\$100, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A. ...	15s.	\$3, buyers
Brown & Co., H. G. ...	\$50	(in liquidation).
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$7, buyers
Carmichael & Co.	\$20	\$8
China Sugar	\$100	\$143, buyers
Dakin, Cruickshank & Co.	\$5	(in liquidation).
Dairy Farm Co.	\$5	\$5, nominal
Fenwick & Co., Geo. ...	\$25	\$82½, buyers
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$22, sales
H. & China Bakery ...	\$50	\$30
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	£10	\$110, buyers
Hongkong Electric ...	\$8	\$8.25, sal. & sellers
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$100	\$95, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$33, sales & buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$108, sales & sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G. ...	\$50	\$59½, buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$158, sales & buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	237 p. ct. prem. = \$421.25, buyers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$185, sales
China Fire	\$20	\$113, c. d. sales
China Traders'	\$25	\$79, sales
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$305, sal. & buyers
North-China	£25	Tls. 195
Straits	\$20	\$28½, sales & buyers
Union	\$25	\$237½
Yangtze	\$60	\$160
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment.	\$50	\$77, sellers
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$9½, sales
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$15, buyers
West Point Building	\$40	\$20, sales
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$50, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Ecs. 500	75, sales
Jebebu	\$5	\$2.35, sales
New Balmoral	\$3	nominal.
Oliver's Mines, A. ...	\$5	\$5, buyers
Do. B. ...	\$2½	\$2½
Punjom	\$4	\$9½, sales & buyers
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$3
Raubs	13s. 10d.	\$12, sales & sellers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manilla ...	\$50	\$68
China Mutual Ord...	£5	£2 10s. buyers
Do. Preference...	£10	£6
Douglas S. S. Co. ...	\$50	\$61½, sales
H. Canton and M. ...	\$15	\$33½, sales
Indo-China S. N. ...	£10	\$47, buyers
Wanchai Warehouse Co.	\$37½	\$43½, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	\$10	\$12½, sales & sellers

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

SHANGHAI, 12th February.—(From Messrs. J. F. Bisset & Co.'s Report.)—The market has been more active this week, and Tobaccoes have improved very much in value. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Shares have been placed at 184 per cent. premium for cash; and 188 per cent. premium, from Hongkong, for delivery on the 31st March. National Bank of China shares are offering at \$26½. Marine Insurance.—North

Chinas have been wanted at Tls. 185, but are held for Tls. 200; Yangtzes have been placed at \$157½ cash; \$168 for February, \$160½ for March, and \$165 for April. Shares are obtainable at \$157½ cash. Straits have been sold at \$29 cash and there are sellers at these prices, with buyers at \$23½. Fire Insurance.—Hongkong were placed to Hongkong at \$375. China Fire Insurance Co. Ltd. Shares were sold locally at \$112 cash, and to Hongkong at \$114, \$110, and \$111. Shipping.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat shares were sold to Hongkong at \$82½, but the market has since improved, and shares are wanted there at \$39½ ex dividend. Indo-China S. N. shares have been in demand, and sales were effected at Tls. 32½ to Tls. 31½ for cash, and Tls. 31 to Tls. 35 for March. A purchase is reported at \$50 from Hongkong for delivery on 30th June. Sugars.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares are wanted at Tls. 25. China Sugar Refining shares have been placed for cash at \$138, and for the 30th April at \$142. Luzon Sugar Refining shares are offering at \$51. Docks & Wharves.—Shares in S. C. Farnham & Co. have been sold at Tls. 185 and Shanghai and Hongkong Wharf shares at Tls. 122½. Hongkong and Whampoa Dock shares have been placed in Hongkong at 230 per cent. premium. Shanghai Engineering shares, with Tls. 50 paid up, are offering at Tls. 48. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment Co.—The Directors have called an extraordinary meeting of the shareholders for the 22nd current at which they will propose to increase the capital of the Company by the issue of 6,000 new shares of Tls. 50 each, which will be offering to the present shares in the proportion of three new shares for every ten shares held by them. Shares on which dividend of Tls. 1½ will be paid, were sold at Tls. 84. There are buyers. Industrial.—Shanghai Gas shares were placed at Tls. 218; Major Brothers shares at Tls. 40; Ewo Cotton shares at Tls. 35, and Rice Mill share at Tls. 30. International shares are offering at Tls. 87½, and Soy Chee shares at Tls. 525. Tugs and Cargo Boats.—Shanghai Cargo Boat shares were placed at Tls. 210 and Tls. 207.50 and Co-operatives at Tls. 190. Miscellaneous.—In Tobacco shares, Sumatras were placed at Tls. 130 to Tls. 142 cash, Tls. 125 for February, Tls. 138 and Tls. 143½ for March, Tls. 133 for April, Tls. 142 and Tls. 147½ for May and Tls. 140 for June, and Langkats were sold at Tls. 370 to Tls. 525 cash, Tls. 460 to Tls. 550 for February, Tls. 425 to Tls. 56½ for March, Tls. 475 to Tls. 575 for April, Tls. 475 to Tls. 575 for May. There are now cash sellers at Tls. 475. Hall and Holtz shares were sold at \$38. Ball's Asbestos shares with 17/6 paid up at \$8, and Central Stores shares at \$15. Green Island Cement shares were purchased from Hongkong at \$2½. Central Stores shares were weak with sellers. Loans.—Shanghai Land Investment Co.'s Debentures of 1896 changed hands at Tls. 101; plus the accrued interest.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

TUESDAY, 16th February.
EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/11
Bank Bills, on demand	2/1½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/1½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/1½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/1½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/1½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2/68
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/70
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	2/15
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	51½
Credits, 60 days' sight	52½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	166
Bank, on demand	166½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	166
Bank, on demand	166½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	72½
Private, 30 days' sight	73
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	1½ pm
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	7½ pm
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1½ pm
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	185
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	185

TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 12th February (from Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report).—There is little of interest to report in the local freight market since last writing, on the 29th ultimo, as holidays have intervened and the quantity of cargo available for shipment homeward is small. Coastwise.—There has been some advance in Japan-Shanghai rates for coal steamers, and \$1 to \$1.10 has been paid, so our quotation below must be considered nominal. For New York *via* Cape.—Our friend, the *Benjamin Sewall*, is still here, but prospects having improved for her, it is quite possible that she will be able to fill up here, in which case she will not call at Hongkong, but leave here for New York direct at an early date. Rates of freight are:—London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 35s.; waste silk 40s.; tea 35s.; Northern Continental ports, by Conference Lines, general cargo 35s.; waste silk 40s.; tea 35s.; New York, by Conference Lines, general cargo 30s.; waste silk 35s.; tea 30s.; New York *via* London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 42s. 6d.; waste silk 47s. 6d.; tea 42s. 6d.; Boston *via* New York, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 42s. 6d.; tea 37s. 6d.; Philadelphia *via* New York, by Conference Lines, general cargo 37s. 6d.; waste silk 42s. 6d.; tea 37s. 6d. Above rates are subject to a deferred return, as per Conference circular. London, by German mail, Shell, and Rickmers' Lines, general cargo 31s. 6d. net; Hamburg, by German mail, Shell, and Rickmers' Lines, general cargo 31s. 6d. net; New York, by German mail, Shell, and Rickmers' Lines, general cargo 33s. 6d. net; Havre direct, general cargo 32s. 6d. net; Genoa, tallow 32s. 6d.; general cargo 32s. 6d. net; Marseilles, tallow 32s. 6d.; general cargo 32s. 6d. net. 42s. 6d. per ton of 20 cwt. for above three ports by all lines. New York, by sail, 19s.; New York by Pacific Lines, 1½ gold cents per lb. tea. Coast rates are:—Mojito to Shanghai, \$1 nominal per ton coal; Nagasaki to Shanghai, \$1 nominal per ton coal.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—*Ningchow* (str.), *Ravenna* (str.), *Java* (str.), *Prometheus* (str.)
For SAN FRANCISCO.—*Sumbawa*, *City of Rio de Janeiro*, *Coloma* (s. r.), *Coptic* (str.), *Falls of Dee*
For BREMEN.—*Preussen* (str.).
For VICTORIA.—*Braemar* (str.).
For NEW YORK.—*Benjamin Sewall*, *Energia* (str.).
For AUSTRALIA.—*Chingtu* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

February—

ARRIVALS.

10, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Pakhoi.
10, Haitan, French str., from Pakhoi.
11, Port Adelaide, British str., from Amoy.
11, Wosang, British str., from Canton.
11, Nanyang, German str., from Canton.
11, Clara, German str., from Haiphong.
11, Medusa, Austrian str., from Kobe.
11, Kweiyang, British str., from Iloilo.
11, Porpoise, British cruiser, from a cruise.
12, Kiangnan, Chinese str., from Canton.
12, Choyang, British str., from Canton.
12, Detroit, Amr. cruiser, from Nagasaki.
12, Cormoran, German cr., from Shanghai.
12, Namoa, British str., from Foochow.
13, Preussen, German str., from Bremen.
13, Lightning, British str., from Calcutta.
13, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
13, Adour, French str., from Shanghai.
13, Sakura Maru, Jap. str., from Kobe.
13, Priam, British str., from Shanghai.
13, Bombay, British str., from Bombay.
13, Coptic, British str., from San Francisco.
14, Ask, Danish str., from Pakhoi.
14, Benvenue, British str., from London.
14, Fausang, British str., from Moji.
14, Hunan, British str., from Canton.
14, Kweilin, British str., from Chinkiang.
14, Omi Maru, Japanese str., from Nagasaki.
14, Taisang, British str., from Swatow.
14, Taksang, British str., from Kutchinotzu.
14, Thales, British str., from Taiwanfoo.
14, Talco, German str., from Saigon.
14, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
15, Chingtu, British str., from Yokohama.
15, Miike Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
15, Paoting, British str., from Samarang.
15, Kalgan, British str., from Shanghai.
15, Triumph, German str., from Pakhoi.
15, Natal, French str., from Shanghai.
16, Kachidato Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.
16, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
16, Falls of Dee, British ship, from New York.

16, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.
16, Strathallan, British str., from Hongay.
February—

DEPARTURES.

11, Nord, Norwegian str., for Amoy.
11, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
11, Mirzapore, British str., for Europe.
11, Hiroshima Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
11, Phranang, British str., for Bangkok.
11, Wongkoi, British str., for Bangkok.
11, Sebastian Bach, British bk., for Mantung.
12, Daphne, German str., for Kebao.
12, Macduff, British str., for Takao.
12, Deuteros, German str., for Saigon.
12, Ancona, British str., for Yokohama.
12, Chelydra, British str., for Calcutta.
12, Fushun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
12, Hanoi, French str., for Hoihow.
12, Medusa, Austrian str., for Trieste.
12, Tokio Maru, Jap. str., for Nagasaki.
12, Wosang, British str., for Swatow.
13, Nanshan, British str., for Bangkok.
13, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
13, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
13, Loyal, German steamer, for Kobe.
13, Toyo Maru, Japanese str., for Saigon.
13, Haitan, French str., for Pakhoi.
13, Machew, British str., for Bangkok.
13, Nanyang, German str., for Shanghai.
13, Onsang, British str., for Java.
13, Peru, Amr. str., for San Francisco.
13, Port Adelaide, British str., for N. York.
13, Sabine Rickmers, Ger. str., for Swatow.
13, Strathay, British str., for Singapore.
13, Tacoma, Amr. ship, for Manila.
13, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
14, Adour, French str., for Saigon.
14, Hohenzollern, Ger. str., for Yokohama.
14, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
14, Namoa, British str., for Coast Ports.
14, Priam, British str., for London.
14, Preussen, German str., for Shanghai.
14, Seidai Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
14, Fannie Skolfield, Brit. bk., for Shanghai.
15, Irene, German cruiser, for a cruise.
15, Choyang, British str., for Shanghai.
15, Hunan, British str., for Saigon.
15, Independent, German str., for Saigon.
15, Galveston, German bark, for Canton.
15, Kweilin, British str., for Canton.
15, Taisang, British str., for Canton.
16, Thales, British str., for Taiwanfoo.
16, Cosmopolit, German str., for Touron.
16, Bombay, British str., for Kobe.
16, Kalgan, British str., for Canton.
16, Amoy, German str., for Iloilo.
16, Omi Maru, Japanese str., for Australia.
16, Bylgia, German bark, for Taiwanfoo.
16, Altmore, British str., for Saigon.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Hanoi*, str., from Haiphong, &c.—Mr. Dehanane, Mr. and Mrs. Sacayaus and children.
Per *Deucalion*, str., for Sandakan—Messrs. Hamerly and Elton.
Per *Esmeralda*, str., for Manila—Mr. and Mrs. Brown.
Per *Lyceum*, str., for Shanghai—Messrs. Johnsford and Dewar.
Per *Rohilla*, str., for Shanghai from Hongkong—Mr. F. X. Gutierrez, General Grodekoff, Mr. J. Saunders. From London—Miss Davies, Miss Power, Miss Reid, Miss Harman, Dr. M. Harman, Miss Massey, Rev. and Mrs. Collins and 2 infants, Miss Darley, Miss Johnson, Miss Vullian, Miss Codrington, Miss Jackson, Mr. F. Shaw, Mr. Heap, Mr. A. Brown, Miss Brown, Rev. E. P. Robinson, and Mr. Carns. From Brindisi—Mr. and Mrs. Morrison, Mr. Dinklaye, Mr. Tienes. From Bombay—Mr. Miller. From Singapore—Messrs. Toderbeira and Elvey.
Per *Preussen*, str., from Bremen &c.—Consul General and Mrs. André, Countess L. Musso, (3), Messrs. H. Oldham, Fransius, Fr. Fransius, H. Howaldt, T. Becker (3), T. Schroeter (2), H. Cuning (5), H. Lorenzo, M. Rossi, T. Coughtrie, T. White, E. Huggen, Dr. E. Wilde, Capt. Campbell (2), Rev. Wm. Campbell, Rev. Ziegele, T. Simmonds, C. Dillenburger, Miss Humbert, Miss Vict. Vires, Mrs. E. D. Wilks (2), Mrs. T. D. Francis, and 115 Chinese.
Per *Kwang Lee*, steamer, from Shanghai—Messrs. Skinner, Boyd and Hunter.
Per *Lightning*, steamer from Calcutta—Rev. and Mrs. Turner and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. Thompson and 3 children, Mrs. Oliver, and Miss Pairman.

Per *Priam*, steamer, from Shanghai—Mr. Robert Carr and Captain Binn.
Per *Taisang*, str., from Swatow—Messrs. Kunar, Ogilby, Martin, and Haslop, and Miss Campbell.
Per *Thales*, str., from Taiwanfoo, &c.—Mrs. Richardson and child, Mrs. Boyd, Capt. Farrow, and Mr. Low.
Per *Coptic*, str., from San Francisco, &c.—Messrs. Geo. P. Messervy, I. Kuhn, A. Ashley, Col. and Mrs. H. C. Kessler, Mr. P. H. McKay, Mrs. J. C. Leonard, Mrs. Colohan, Mrs. E. J. Dorn, Mr. and Mrs. Sampson, Messrs. A. Shewan and E. Tomlin.
Per *Natal*, str., for Hongkong from Shanghai—Messrs. A. du Silva, Carvalho, Pereira and infant, Platt, Manuel B. Asensi, S. Bromo, C. Addis, A. Pond, R. Harris, James C. Arthur, and Alister Duncan, Revs. Tailhan and Bidan, Messrs. J. Vzerkoosky, G. de Gunsburg, P. de Gunsburg, Hamilton, Cunningham, Ng Yat Cho, and Luo Lan Chong. From Yokohama—Lieut. Atkinson, Mr. E. Babington, Lieut. A. Danawan, Messrs. J. Marquis and Lun Took. For Saigon from Shanghai—Mrs. Zedelius and infant, and Mr. Simonoff. For Singapore from Shanghai—Mr. G. Shekury's amah and infant, Messrs. Schenoldin, Petterson, E. Thors, H. Anderson, and M. Edlelund. From Kobe—Mr. Rosenbach. For Batavia from Yokohama—Mr. G. Trenisi. For Suez from Shanghai—Mr. Clarence Cary. For Marseilles from Shanghai—Messrs. A. Savarsine, H. Smith, Yee Wing Cheong, and Morin Auguste. From Kobe—Messrs. L. Mattaldi, J. Stomi, and Trucco.

DEPARTED.

Per *Mirzapore*, str., from Hongkong for Penang—Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Graham. For Bombay—Mr. R. Versaybhoy. For Brindisi—Messrs. Fiennes and Streatfield. For London—Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Whiting and 6 children, Miss Fisher, Messrs. Goodwin, Wm. Mardon, W. Wood, H. Goddard, L. Lelliott, T. Nekrews, G. Morey, C. Duke, and P. Boswell. From Shanghai for Colombo—Miss Dickenson. For London—Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Williams and 3 children, Miss Sherwood, Master Coultas, Mr. C. E. Cooper, and Mr. H. Lazarus. For London from Yokohama—Mr. and Mrs. Jackson, Miss Strome, and Mr. H. Russell. From Kobe—Mr. Oberkotter. From Hongkong for Singapore—Mr. Y. Sato. For Bombay—Mr. F. de Menezes. For London—Messrs. Schulte, S. E. Whitnall, and S. Peer Groves.
Per *Tokio Maru*, str., for Yokohama from Hongkong—Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Davis, Miss Lewis, Lieut. S. Hara, Rev. A. H. Bestall, and Mr. W. Dormer. From Australian Ports—Mr. and Mrs. Smith and 2 children, Messrs. Boyer, W. Eckenstein, H. V. Foy, and Singleton. For Kobe from Sydney—Mr. S. Nakamura.
Per *Peru*, str., for Shanghai—Mr. and Mrs. McMichael and child, Mrs. Oliver, Mr. E. R. Burkill, Mr. G. Bernard, and Mr. Thos. Murray. For Yokohama—Capt. N. Kirby, Mr. and Mrs. Thomson and 3 children, Mr. A. G. White, and Mr. Ah Cheong. For Honolulu—Mr. F. H. Foster. For San Francisco—Mr. Win. Heap, Mr. Frank Shaw, and Mr. M. Herrera.
Per *Chelydra*, str., for Singapore—Mr. Sloane.
Per *Namoa*, str., for Foochow—Rev. and Mrs. Collins and children, Dr. Mary Hanner, Mr. Ed. B. Wetenhan, Misses Coddington, Johnstone, Darley, Vullamy, Jackson, Reed, Massey, M. Hanner, F. Davis, and Power.
Per *Preussen*, str., for Shanghai from Southampton—Dr. and Mrs. Cochrane, Misses Bovey, Reed, Wilson, Tawson, Bees, Nicholls, Mr. F. R. McFarlane. From Genoa—Messrs. A. Kuschel, E. F. Gross, Otto Messing, P. Rump, Theo. Meyerdirks, C. Muller, E. Kirchberg, and A. Clenci. From Naples—Mr. T. Wright and family. From Colombo—Messrs. P. Gunner and A. Parloff. From Hongkong—Mr. and Mrs. Dietrich, Mr. and Mrs. Gonsalves Pereira, Mr. and Mrs. Turner and 3 children, Miss Barman, Messrs. C. E. Richardson, A. Wasserafall, and R. H. Barber.
Per *Hohenzollern*, str., for Yokohama from Hongkong—Messrs. M. Brunner and S. Mark.
Per *Priam*, str., for Singapore—Capt. Binn. Messrs. Robt. Carr and Larson Naur.

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